

Assessing School-Family Communication

Communication between the school and students' homes should be regular, two-way, and meaningful.

Indicators	Consistently Evident	Frequently Evident	Seldom Evident	Not Evident
• Educators use a variety of communication tools to facilitate regular, two-way interaction.				
• Parents and educators discuss student interests and strengths.				
• School provides clear information regarding expectations, activities, and services.				
• School provides clear information on reforms, policies, discipline procedures, assessment tools, and goals.				
• Educators hold conferences with parents and caregivers that accommodate varied schedules, language barriers, and child care needs.				
• When concerns arise, school promotes immediate contact between educators and families.				
• Educators distribute student work for parental review on a regular basis.				
• School translates communications to assist non-English-speaking families				
• Educators communicate with parents and caregivers regarding positive student behavior and achievement, not just misbehavior or failure.				
• Parents and caregivers have opportunities to communicate with principals and other administrative staff.				
• School holds informal activities and formal events at which families, staff, and community members can interact.				
• School provides staff development regarding effective communication techniques and the importance of regular two-way communication between schools and families.				

Adapted from the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs, National Parent-Teacher Association. This and other parent/family involvement tools are available online at <http://www.pta.org/programs/invstand.htm>.