**Parent Involvement Affects Behavior**

The research on family involvement in education spans 30 years. It links increased student achievement with parent involvement in their child’s learning. This link has also spread to student behavior as students whose parents are involved in their education show improved behavior, and lower rates of suspension, alcohol use, violence, and antisocial behavior (National Education Service, 2002). As part of our efforts to improve behavior in the schools, we can look to parents for support. Many agencies, including the Colorado Department of Education, rely on Joyce Epstein’s Six Types of Parent Involvement Model to structure parent programming. These six types are listed here with a brief explanation.

*Parent & Community Engagement Committee, 2004*

**Epstein’s Types of Parent Engagement and School-wide PBIS Activities**

**TYPE 1: PARENTING**

**Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.**

* Other interactive parent focus groups with different topics and knowledgeable facilitators
* Create a “PBIS at Home” classes for parents
* Create behavior support classes for parents and community members
* Provide training in parent’s native language
* Offer family activities throughout the year to support PBIS
* Hotline or contact person with information on PBIS
* Parenting Survey or quick list to compare the PBIS expectations at school to the home.

**TYPE 2: COMMUNICATING**

**Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children’s progress.**

* Provide PBIS table at Back to School Night with parent surveys
* Share results of PBIS assessments and surveys with parents
* Create and maintain a PBIS bulletin board
* Create “PBIS in Action” video
* Schedule special weeks with links to PBIS (Kindness Week, Earth day, Disability Awareness)
* Create/distribute calendars and agencies with PBIS motto and matrix
* Publish a PBIS Newsletter or add a PBIS page to school website
* Include PBIS motto on school letterhead
* Create/distribute PBIS shirts, hats, book covers, mugs, bumper stickers, book bags
* Learn expectations at home, provide visuals to parents that they can post at home

**TYPE 3: VOLUNTEERING**

**Recruit and organize parent help and support**.

* Create a volunteer book that describes the PBIS program and behavior expectations for parents.
* Have parent available to read to students as PBIS incentive or reward
* Have parents help children design PBIS posters
* Survey parents for creative ways to partner/volunteer
* Larger pool of volunteers to draw from (community members)

*(Form adapted from Colorado Department of Education, 2012)*

**TYPE 4: LEARNING AT HOME**

**Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.**

* Have web topic and activities available each week/month
* Purchase resources that parents can check-out that support PBIS and academic achievement
* Have children explain and give examples of how PBIS works with their family as “homework”
* Have PBIS video available for checkout with follow-up activities
* Have families practice the targeted behavior at home and acknowledge those behaviors at home as in school.
* Home toolkit with PBIS expectation activities for families.
* Student of the week can highlight how they use PBIS in the home.

**TYPE 5: DECISION-MAKING**

**Include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives.**

* Recruit multiple family members for PBIS team
* Alternate meeting times: morning afternoon, evening, weekends
* Pair new parents with veteran parents
* Offer “short-term” participation on PBIS team, with option to renew
* Plan for care of children during meeting
* Involve parents in selection of incentives and celebrations

**TYPE 6: COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY**

**Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.**

* Acknowledge employer’s donation of parent time in newsletter/web site
* Invite community members with resources for parents to facilitate parent groups or teach parenting topics based on parent survey
* Make presentations to school board, community groups, site council/accountability
* Invite community and parents to PBIS celebrations
* Share “PBIS in Action” video at local library, town hall

