

Indicator 8 Parent Involvement Survey

Family Engagement Strategies

The **Parent Involvement Survey** measures the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. In addition to parents, students over 18 years of age complete the survey, unless a parent has retained Individualized Education Program (IEP) rights.

Questions fall into one or more of the following four categories: Partnerships, Communication, Family Support, and School Climate. These tips, used in conjunction with the annual survey question-by-question data and a district or school-based action plan, will have a positive impact on family engagement and student outcomes.

As part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA '04), Exceptional Student Services is required to report the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. This data is gathered from the Parent Involvement Survey and is published in the [State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report \(SPP/APR\)](#).

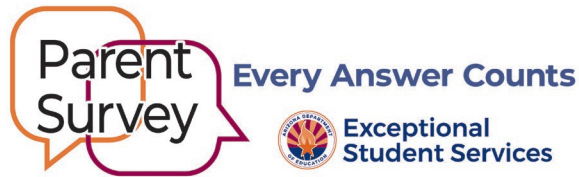
Family Engagement Strategies

Strengthening Partnerships

- Provide a draft IEP prior to the meeting and encourage parental input. Include proposals and all relevant documents.
- Greet parents upon arrival and introduce all participants.
- Offer to review of the Procedural Safeguards Notice (PSN) and identify sections that apply to prior written notice, parental consent, confidentiality, discipline, dispute resolution, etc.
 - Explain choices or options the parent has if there is a disagreement.
 - Refer to advocacy groups listed on the PSN cover sheet, or local parent groups.
- Distribute the meeting agenda and allow for parental input.
- Review participants' roles and responsibilities at the beginning of the meeting.
- Ensure equal time for parental input into each component of the IEP process.
- Ask teachers and related-service providers to share strategies with families to support their child's progress at home.
- Offer resources (e.g., local parent groups, [Traveling the Special Education Highway](#), [Raising Special Kids website](#)).

Effective Communication

- Establish regular, formal, and informal communication with parents regarding their child's academic, behavioral, and social performance.
- Identify a point of contact for child-specific questions (e.g., teacher, case manager) and



for general special education questions (e.g., school parent liaison, Raising Special Kids Family Support Specialist).

- Use a variety of approaches for effective home/school communication (e.g., newsletters, flyers, phone calls, social media).
- Notify families of all school activities, including extracurricular events, and encourage their participation.
- Provide interpreters who are familiar with the special education process and terminology.
- Use parent-friendly language and check for understanding.

Meaningful Family Support

- Be sensitive to how the family is affected by their child's disability.
- Use person-first language.
- Be mindful of each family's culture.
- Offer meeting days and times to accommodate families' unique needs. Be flexible.
- Consider a variety of meeting options (virtual and conference calls).
- Support the development and maintenance of parent advisory councils and family support groups.
- Make special education training and family support resources available to parents and staff (e.g., host workshops, refer to parent group training calendars, locate resource materials).
- Plan workshops based on input from families. Establish and publicize a training calendar.

Supportive School Climate

- Structure a parent-friendly atmosphere that lets families know they are welcome.
- Seek out parental input on a range of issues that affect special education and the inclusion of all students.
- Provide staff development on a variety of topics that impact special education and parent involvement.
- Increase parental input in the decision-making process.

Family Engagement Programs

- Explore the evidence-based family engagement programs posted on the [Parent Involvement Survey Info for Schools web page](#).

For more information contact the [Parent Survey Inbox](#).