



CLIMATE CONNECTION

Information and strategies
linking Climate and School Safety.

Family and Community Engagement



Climate Connection is a publication
of the NYS Center for School Safety.

It Takes a Village: Family & Community in Schools

Family and community partnerships are essential for creating a positive and inclusive school climate. Open and consistent communication--through conferences, newsletters, and digital platforms, for example--keeps families informed and engaged. Schools can foster stronger relationships by offering parenting classes, cultural events, and volunteer opportunities, making families feel valued as partners within the school community.

Inclusive events, like multicultural nights, ensure all backgrounds are represented and barriers to participation are reduced. Mentorship and volunteer opportunities provide access points for families. These connections offer students additional academic, social, and emotional support. Active family and community involvement promotes school safety, reduces negative behaviors, and builds a nurturing environment where students feel supported, motivated, and empowered to succeed.

EVENT IDEAS

Scavenger Hunt
Ice Cream Social
Museum Night
Escape Room
Cultural Cuisine Festival
Talent Show
BINGO
Book Swap
Kickball Tournament
Art Show
Bike Rodeo
Multicultural Fashion Show

**National
PTA**
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VOLUNTEER IDEAS

Tutor
Mentor
Classroom Parent/Grandparent
Career/Content Expert
Fundraiser Organizer
Club Leader
Collecting School Supplies
Cafeteria Helper
Musical Stage Hand
Library Helper



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How to Strengthen School-Home Partnerships

Find out each family's preferred method of communication

Provide numerous options: phone call, text, apps, videos, paper copies.



Provide language and literacy support

Offer communication in a language and format that families can understand.

Facilitate understanding of school routines



Make families aware of the school calendar; procedures for things like reporting absences; early dismissal days and procedures; and other routines and practices.



Ensure inclusive communication

All communication should be meaningful, precise, and expressed in simple language. Avoid jargon and idiomatic expressions that can be confusing.

Reliable and advanced communication



Being proactive to notify families of upcoming events, like assessments or field trips, allows parents/caregivers to support their child and help them prepare.



Listen to concerns, hopes, dreams, and ideas about school improvements

Engage families and the community in open dialogue around school improvement.



New York State Center for School Safety: [Information for Parents and Guardians](#)

New York State Education Department: [Home to School Connections \(H2SC\)](#)

BOCES: [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resource Repository](#)

edutopia: [How Can High-Poverty Schools Engage Families and the Community?](#)

Responsive Classroom: [School-Home Communication Strategies](#)

TESOL IA: [10 Tips on Strengthening Home-School Partnerships Through Effective Family Engagement](#)