

Your Child's Education – Be a Part of It!



Ideas you can use to be engaged in your child's education



Office of Family and Community Engagement
Office of School, Family and Community Partnerships



Sacramento City Unified School District

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Our Mission

“Students graduate as globally competitive lifelong learners, prepared to succeed in a career and higher education institution of their choice to secure gainful employment and contribute to society.”





Dear SCUSD Families and Friends:

Preparing children for success in our rapidly changing, 21st Century world is a top priority of the Sacramento City Unified School District. We are committed to readying our students for the future by providing a challenging, high-quality education for every child in every school.

Our principals, teachers and staff are working hard to ensure our instruction and curriculum is motivating, inspiring and rigorous. Through excellent teaching that leads to accelerated learning, we will provide your child with the knowledge, habits and skills needed for college or a career path.

But we cannot achieve success for children alone. We need involvement from our community – and families are our most important partners. Research shows that family involvement in education can greatly improve a school's learning environment and enrich the lives of the children.

This booklet will provide you with ideas and tips on ways you can assist your child's education. Of course, every child and every school is different, so don't be limited by the suggestions here. Work with your school to develop the best involvement plan for you.

Our goal is to make our schools integral parts of the neighborhoods we serve, vibrant hubs of activity where caring adults come together to assist in the education of children. We also believe in two-way communication channels with our community: We are as eager to learn from others as we are to teach.

We look forward to working with our families as we move forward. Together, we can make Sacramento City Unified a place where putting children first is at the heart of every decision we make.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan P. Raymond". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jonathan P. Raymond,
Superintendent





How can I help my child to be successful at school?

You can help your child reach his or her maximum potential at school by becoming an informed parent that is actively involved in your child's learning – at home, in the school, and in the community. This means knowing what your child is expected to know by year's end, partnering with your child's teachers, attending school regularly and finding opportunities to enrich your child's learning during their out of school time.

What are the benefits of playing a part in my child's education?

Alongside teachers, principals, support staff, and administrators, you make a big difference in whether your child succeeds in school. Research conducted by the United States Department of Education during the past fifty years, shows that students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, enroll in higher level programs, be promoted and earn credits, attend school regularly, have better social skills, and graduate and go on to college.

Are there things that I can do at home?

Yes, learning starts at home. You can support your child's lifelong learning through reading. Reading, in any language and at any age, is one of the best ways to ensure student success at school. You can also help by talking to your child about his or her day, helping to create home-work routines, and ensuring that your child is ready for school each day. Make learning fun — go to the public library, and create or look for activities that support classroom learning. During your busy day, take time to show an interest in your child's activities – connect with your child!



Children learn at an early child development center

What are some of the obstacles that may make getting involved difficult for parents?

Many parents face the same challenges that you do. Work and family responsibilities often conflict with school hours. Language, transportation, cultural and financial issues can sometimes stop you from getting involved. Research shows that volunteering in school is only one way to supporting your child's learning. If this is not possible, you still can find time to keep yourself informed of your child's progress, create the proper conditions for your child to do their homework, and devote a minimum of 20 minutes a day to read to your child or to check on their home work.

How can I participate in my child's education?

Whether you have five minutes, a few hours, or one night a month, you can make a difference in your child's education. This booklet offers some ideas to help you get involved. We encourage you to talk to your child's teacher and other parents to share your ideas. Find out what's happening in your school so you can get involved.

Where can I get more information?

Your school is the best place to get information or contact the Parent Resource Center at (916) 643-7924.

Just by opening this booklet you are already participating in your child's education.



Opportunities at Home

At home, if you have . . .

A few minutes:

- Help your child set up a routine to be ready for school each day.
- Ensure your child starts the day with a nutritious breakfast.
- Ask your child what happened today in the classroom and on the playground.
- Connect with your child's teachers through e-mail, telephone, or in person.
- Visit your school or district website for an update on recent and upcoming activities.
- Read your school newsletters and check your child's backpack for important information from school

A few hours:

- Read with your child in any language to help your child learn.
- Help your child with homework by providing a quiet place, by answering general questions, and by asking your child to explain what he or she has learned
- Encourage your child to read local newspapers and magazines and talk about what is going on in the world.
- Find out if you can be a volunteer or volunteer coordinator for your child's classroom or a school wide activity.



A day:

- Clean out your cupboards and donate books or toys to the school (check with principals and teachers for a list of what is needed).
- Visit a museum or attend a special event in the city with your child to learn more about a topic that he or she is studying at school.
- Encourage active learning through outdoor play, board games, and helping at home.
- Teach your child to use the internet safely and effectively.

A few days or evenings:

- Find out if you can volunteer to prepare classroom materials or other items for special school events.
- Become an active member of your schools parent group such as the PTA.

Once a month:

- Find out if your school or child's classroom teacher has a monthly calendar of events and post it on your fridge door for everyone to read.

A season:

- Support your child's interests in after-school activities in the school or outside of the school, such as music, sports, or special interest programs.



Opportunities in Your Child's School

In your child's school, if you have . . .

A few minutes:

- Arrange a time with your child's teacher to visit the classroom and learn about your child's successes and challenges.
- Say hello to the principal and the office staff in your child's school.
- Contact your school to find out how you can get involved.
- Read the bulletin boards at your school.
- Find out what parent resources are available at your school and take advantage of them.

A few hours:

- Attend "Back to School Night" and take some time to visit with the teachers and members of the school administration.
- Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences to discuss your child's progress and upcoming coursework.
- Attend school and classroom events — your support is needed and welcomed.
- Get to know other parents at the school — Build a support network.



Parents turn out for Caleb Greenwoods pancake breakfast

A day:

- Find out how you can volunteer in the school — reading to students, participating in field trips, special events, holiday celebrations, helping with crafts, library improvements, or any administrative duties.
- Find out if you can volunteer to be a guest speaker or a parent tutor/mentor — your help is appreciated.

A few days or evenings:

- Attend school special events, parent workshops, and other activities in your child's school — your attendance makes a difference.
- Volunteer to organize a school social event or fundraiser.
- Offer to translate at school council meetings to encourage parents in your cultural community to participate.
- Find out if you can work with your school, School Site Council, or other parent groups to prepare a welcome handbook for families new to the school.

Once a month:

- Attend a school site council meeting at your school (usually one evening a month).
- Become a candidate for your School Site Council, join the PTA or help with a special project, such as special event planning, and more — your talents are needed.

A season:

- Find out if you can help start a parent resource center at your school.
- Find out if you can volunteer to run a lunch hour club to teach or share a special skill with students.



Families participate in O.W. Erlewine community garden

Opportunities in Your Community

In the community, if you have . . .

A few minutes:

- Walk with your child through your community to school..
- Find out what is happening in your neighborhood and local parks

A few hours:

- Find out if you can volunteer to help with your school newsletter and flyers in your school neighborhood.
- Volunteer to contact local businesses or organizations to support activities in your child's school or arrange for guest speakers.
- Visit your local public library and museums.

A day:

- Participate in your school's "Sacramento Goes Back to School" first day of school activities
- Find out if your school hosts an Open House for school students and parents to visit the school 'in action' and attend or offer to help.



len Cesar E. Chavez School promotes family reading at book fair

- Distribute invitations for special events to local schools and the community.
- Make connections in your community — find opportunities for community members and the school to work together.
- Encourage your child to attend or volunteer at community events.

A few days:

- Talk to your school and School Site Council about organizing tours of the school for parents new to the area.
- In consultation with your school and School Site Council, offer to complete grant applications for schoolyard greening projects, such as community-school gardens.
- Work with a community organization to host a special event.

Once a month:

- Attend School Board meetings at the Serna Center, 5735 47th Avenue.
- Attend district parent advisory meetings at the Serna Center, such as the District Advisory Council (DAC) or District English Language Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC) meetings. (see district website www.scusd.edu for meeting dates)
- Offer to provide transportation or carpool with other parents to get to meetings.
- Offer to write articles about your school's parent involvement activities for your news letter or local newspaper.

A season:

- Coach a local team or organize an after-school club.
- Participate in 'greening' your schoolyard, planting trees, gardening, maintaining play equipment.

2010-2014 Strategic Plan

THREE PILLARS

Pillar I: Career and College Ready Students

A. Provide students with a relevant, rigorous and well-rounded education that includes 21st Century career exploration, visual and performing arts and that meets four-year college and university requirements.

B. Create professional development opportunities that are practical and have high impact on student learning.

C. Develop rigorous, holistic assessments to measure ongoing student progress.

Pillar II: Family and Community Engagement

A. Develop meaningful opportunities that will empower parents to participate in their children's education.

B. Ensure that every school will become an integral hub of community life to provide open space and access to resources.

C. Increase strategic partnerships that expose students to career pathways through internships and service learning.

Pillar III: Organizational Transformation

A. Create a "no-excuses" culture that is focused on results and continuous improvement.

B. Recruit, train, retain and support a motivated, capable and diverse workforce.

C. Focus every department, team and individual in the organization to support teaching and learning.

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For training opportunities
or for more information contact the
Parent Resource Center
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(916) 643-7924