

SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

It takes years to build sustained excellence. No single action by one school can ensure top-level student performance. Researchers have identified nine characteristics most often found in high-performing schools:

1. A clear and shared focus
2. High standards and expectations for all students
3. Effective school leadership
4. High levels of collaboration and communication
5. Curriculum, instruction and assessments aligned with state standards
6. Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching
7. Focused professional development
8. A supportive learning environment
9. High levels of family and community involvement

For a complete listing, definitions and implementation suggestions of the "Nine Characteristics of High-Performing Schools," visit www.k12.wa.us

We won't close the achievement gap if we don't have partnerships. Family, school and community connections are key to student motivation and success.



CONNECTING PEOPLE, INFORMATION & RESOURCES

The Center for the Improvement of Student Learning (CISL) is a clearinghouse for educational research, success stories and promising practices. Established by the Washington State Legislature as a public service center in the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, CISL promotes academic success for all students, especially those in underserved communities. CISL's primary goal is to connect people to the information and resources they need to improve learning and teaching in Washington State.

To learn more about CISL and to sign-up to receive a monthly e-newsletter, visit: www.yourlearningcenter.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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FAMILY, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



The success of all students is supported by families, schools and communities working together in true partnerships.



- Family involvement is a key factor in a student's improved academic performance.
- Effective programs to engage families and community embrace a philosophy of partnership.

"This relationship holds across families of all economic, racial/ethnic and educational backgrounds and students at all ages."
-- "A New Wave of Evidence,"
Henderson & Mapp, 2003

When families are involved, research shows students benefit with:

- Higher GPAs
- Enrollment in more challenging classes
- Better attendance
- Improved behavior
- Better social skills



WHAT WORKS IN YOUR SCHOOL?

The Center for the Improvement of Student Learning is looking for story ideas on promising practices from around the state. What programs does your district or school use to successfully connect with families around learning? Is there an outstanding teacher reaching students in a unique way? Are there organizations in your community partnering with schools? What training have you found effective in improving student learning?

We'd like to hear any and all of the stories that you think would benefit schools and families in Washington.

Please e-mail your success stories to cisi@k12.wa.us

FAMILIES CAN ...

- Talk with your child about what he/she is learning at school.
- Visit the school and meet your child's teachers.
- Ask about your child's progress and how to help at home with his/her learning.
- Find out about programs and resources to help your child.
- Provide a quiet place and the resources your child needs to study.
- Get involved with school committees and/or parent groups.

SCHOOLS CAN ...

- Provide a welcoming environment for all families.
- Recognize that all parents are involved in their child's learning and want their child to do well in school.
- Initiate partnerships with families based on mutual responsibility and respect.
- Involve families and the community in decision-making.
- Ask families what they need to support their child's learning at home.
- Develop a written policy on family/community partnerships.
- Review partnership programs on a regular basis.

COMMUNITIES CAN ...

- Provide cultural or professional expertise to support classroom instruction.
- Engage students and educators in your organization or business.
- Mentor or tutor a student.
- Address neighborhood issues in partnership with schools.
- Offer health or social services at the school.

