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10 Truths About Parent Involvement

The research is clear and convincing: Regardless of income or background, when parents are involved, students are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, enroll in higher-level programs, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, graduate, and go on to postsecondary education. Here are 10 more truths about parent involvement.

1. All parents have hopes and goals for their children.
2. Parents differ in their abilities and/or resources to help their children reach those goals.
3. The parent is the central contributor to a child's education.
4. Parent involvement must be seen as a legitimate element of education and deserves equal emphasis with elements such as school improvement and evaluation.
5. Parent involvement is an ongoing process, not a series of events.
6. Parent involvement requires a shared vision, policy, and framework for planning programs and practices that are connected to student learning.
7. Many barriers to parent involvement are found within school practices, attitudes, and assumptions.
8. Successful parent involvement programs help families guide their children's learning from preschool through high school.
9. Families from diverse backgrounds have their own set of norms and experiences that often influence their relationship with schools.
10. Parents are more likely to become involved when:
 - They understand that they *should* be involved.
 - They feel *capable* of making a contribution.
 - They feel *invited* by the school and their children.