

Overview-Communication Strategies Module

Focus of the module:

- The focus of this module is to assist schools in improving family partnerships with regards to communication strategies. This module emphasizes the importance that schools and parents must have a shared responsibility in educating students and that a relationship among all partners is crucial to student success.

Learning Objectives:

- The participant will learn about four areas of communication that are essential for schools to better communicate with parents. These areas are:
 - Approach: It is important to place an emphasis on relationships with parents rather than roles. Making sure everyone is included in the child's education and is involved is also a good way to build communication with parents.
 - Attitude: Schools and educational staff need to recognize that all families have strengths and that parents can offer valuable information about their child
 - Atmosphere: Supporting all families, including those of different ethnicities, languages, religious groups, or classes, can be accomplished by creating a warm and friendly classroom environment.
 - Actions: Remembering that there is no "one" action, strategy, or approach that works in all situations is important. Examining what your school already does to create partnerships with families, willingness to include families, and how their input is asked for is important for future partnerships with families.

Suggestions & Handouts

- Suggestions for effective communication strategies and skills as well as working with administrative support are provided. Detailed examples and methods for more family friendly practices for Approach, Attitude, Atmosphere & Actions are offered.