

Healthy Young People

Engaging families and community

Resources for schools

Developing and maintaining partnerships with families and community is a key component of a whole school approach to wellbeing and the Health Promoting Schools Framework. Family engagement has a positive impact on student learning and wellbeing. Community partnerships enable students and families to have access to experiences, support and resources that are not available within the school.

The resources below will help you reflect upon your current approaches and provide tools for consulting and working in partnership with families and communities.

Family-School Partnerships Framework

The Australian Family-School Partnerships Framework document is a resource for school communities. Its purpose is to encourage and guide schools, school systems, parent groups and families to support family-school partnerships.

The Framework contains:

- a vision for improved partnerships between Australian families and school;
- a set of principles to guide families and schools in developing partnerships
- seven key dimensions of effective family-school partnerships
- a set of strategies providing practical guidance to school communities and school systems in implementing and fostering family-school partnerships.

The Framework is based on existing good practice and provides an agreed national approach to guide schools and families working on these issues. The Framework recognises that many positive developments and innovations are already occurring in schools and that a one size fits all approach to partnerships is not feasible. Partnerships need to be underpinned by broad principles and strategies but remain specific to school context, including family/community characteristics, school size, levels of schooling and student needs.

The Strengthening Family and Community Engagement in Student Learning Resource

The Strengthening Family and Community Engagement Resource builds on the Family-School Partnerships Framework and has been designed to assist schools build and strengthen family, school and community partnerships to support children's learning. The resource incorporates a new School Assessment Toolkit (Reflection Matrix) to support school planning processes. The tool will help schools to reflect on and decide where they are placed on a continuum of engagement and where work can be celebrated and further developed

Be You - Family Partnerships

Be You is led by Beyond Blue with delivery partners Early Childhood Australia and headspace. Be You promotes mental health and wellbeing, from the early years to 18, and offers educators and learning communities evidence-based online professional learning, complemented by a range of tools and resources to turn learning into action. Be You also provides a model for implementing a whole-learning community approach to mental health and wellbeing and engaging in family partnerships.

Engaging Aboriginal parents in their children's education

This resource sheet identifies the key factors behind successful school engagement programs for Indigenous parents in Australia. It reviews evaluation studies on parental educational engagement in Australia and presents case studies on several programs that directly or indirectly support Indigenous parental involvement.

National School Improvement Tool

The National School Improvement Tool (NSIT) assists schools to review and reflect on their efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning. School-community partnerships is one of 9 interrelated domains.

Resources for parents

Learning Potential

This Australian Government site provides tips and ideas for parents to support their children's learning and development. Free app also available for apple and Android devices.