



SCAN ME

Families as Partners

SUPPORTING TEACHING AND LEARNING AT HOME

Relationships, routines, and resources create the foundation for effective partnerships between families and the school community.

As teachers and leaders, we have always worked to develop and maintain positive experiences for students and families in our school buildings. We build relationships to foster positive connections and establish a nurturing environment of trust. We have routines in place that provide structure and support efficient and effective learning. Additionally, we ensure students have access to the materials, tools, and supplies needed to support active learning and skill development.

These tips focus on how the pandemic has changed our approach — and as a result — how some of our newly adopted practices may change how we partner with families even after we return to fully in-person learning.

Top Takeaways

- **TAKE STOCK:** Before developing a communications strategy, consider the status quo. How do you typically communicate with families? Are your practices consistent? Do you provide explicit information? How do you adapt to feedback or to changing needs? Conduct a self-assessment to identify areas for growth.
- **USE YOUR IMAGINATION:** Think about what learning looks like in the home for your students. What frustrations might families face? Give students and their families tools to troubleshoot, ask for help and share feedback.
- **BE SUPPORTIVE:** What scaffolds can you create to support your students' success when they're not in your classroom? At school, your students have hands-on support to keep their space organized and the correct materials ready to go. Clearly defined expectations can help families prepare students to learn while at home.
- **BE RESPONSIVE:** Do students and their families know when, and how, to contact their teacher? Creating virtual "office hours" is one way to establish clear expectations about school-to-home communications.
- **WRITE YOUR OWN ROAD MAP:** Create a plan that works for you, your students and their families. Focus on an area of family partnerships that you want to improve on. Look for success stories or strategies that speak to you. The best plan is the one you can (and will) follow!
- **LESS IS MORE:** Students and families alike may feel overwhelmed by an abundance of digital tools, platforms or programs. Streamline and standardize the software being used within your school, subject or grade level to keep families from feeling overwhelmed. Emphasize the "why" behind the tools you choose.

EDUCATION IN THE COVID ERA

FAMILIES

- ✓ Parents, siblings, grandparents, daycare providers, and other partners are supporting learners while continuing to attend to other responsibilities. (i.e. balancing work, family needs, caring for multiple students at once, etc.)

EDUCATORS

- ✓ Educators are developing relationships in new ways; adjusting routines and leveraging a variety of new resources to support the family and student learning partnerships.

LEADERS

- ✓ Educational leaders are transitioning traditional effective partnering practices and adjusting plans based on feedback from educators and families.

