

# EPSTEIN'S SIX TYPES OF INVOLVEMENT

The framework of six types of involvement helps educators develop more comprehensive programs of school-family-community partnerships.

Each type of involvement includes many [different practices](#) of partnership. Each type has particular [challenges that must be met](#) in order to involve all families, and each type requires [redefinitions of some basic principles](#) of involvement. Finally, each type leads to different [results for students, families, and teachers](#).

Although all schools may use the framework of six types of involvement as a guide, each school must *choose* practices that will help achieve important goals and meet the needs of its students and families.

● **TYPE 1--PARENTING:** Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.

● **TYPE 2--COMMUNICATING:** Communicate with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.

● **TYPE 3--VOLUNTEERING:** Improve recruitment, training, work, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audiences at the school or in other locations to support students and school programs.

● **TYPE 4--LEARNING AT HOME:** Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum-linked activities and decisions.

● **TYPE 5--DECISION MAKING:** Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through PTA/PTO, school councils, committees, and other parent organizations.

● **TYPE 6--COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY:** Coordinate resources and services *for* families, students, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services *to* the community.