

Myths About Parental Involvement

Myth 1: Parents and families living in socio-economically deprived circumstances are less interested and less able to support their children's learning.

☐ True

☐ False

Myth 2: The best way for parents and families to be involved in the life of the school is through the local PTA or PTO.

☐ True

☐ False

Myth 3: Schools and teachers exhibit the greatest influence on children's learning.

☐ True

☐ False

Myth 4: Parent involvement and family engagement are expectations that add time and effort to overstretched staff with little or no benefit.

☐ True

☐ False

II. Myths About Parent Involvement

HANDOUT: Myths About Parental Involvement" is included on page VI-8.

Directions: Although there could be a lengthy list of myths about parent involvement and family engagement, let's address four at this time. As the trainer presents each myth the trainer may want the audience to share why they think the statement is true or false.

- Listen to respondents then briefly explain why each statement is a myth or false perception.

Myth 1: Parents and families living in socio-economically deprived circumstances are less interested and less able to support their children's learning.

☐ True ☒ False

- Although families from socio-economically deprived situations may not possess the "social capital" for networking and may lack experience in the school system, and they may not have any college training, do not underestimate their desire for their child to be academically successful. Typically these families want their children to experience a better life as adults and they understand a successful educational experience is critical. Provide to these families practical ideas so they can more effectively help their children.

Myth 2: The best way for parents and families to be involved in the life of the school is through the local PTA or PTO.

☐ True ☒ False

- The local PTA and PTO are organizations that can greatly benefit the school. They often provide training to parents and can be a very good place for parents to be involved. But, the key is engagement that leads to making an impact on the child's learning. Schools should provide meaningful opportunities for parents and families to be involved at home and at school so they are better equipped to assist their child.

Myth 3: Schools and teachers exhibit the greatest influence on children's learning.

☐ True ☒ False

- Schools and teachers care for children 6-8 hours per day and do have a significant influence upon the child. Nevertheless, the parent continues to be the child's first and most important teacher. The parents and family establish the values, provide moral guidance, and herald educational expectations that outweigh the school's efforts. Even for secondary students, parents' interest and active ongoing support has an enormous influence upon the child's behavior and study habits and future achievements.

Myth 4: Parent involvement and family engagement are expectations that add time and effort to overstretched staff with little or no benefit.

☐ True ☒ False

- Building relationships and meaningful partnerships does take some time, but the rewards are tremendous. When parents and families are actively engaged to promote and assist student learning the attendance rate increases, the graduation rate increases, discipline problems decrease, homework completion increases, and school morale improves. It is a win-win that is worth the time and effort invested by educators and families.