

Building Block: Connection

Open House

The new school year is coming and schools across the country are applying the finishing touches to their planned activities and school calendars. Undoubtedly, those activities and calendars will include an Open House event. Open House is the perfect opportunity to express to families the significance of their role in their student's academic success and call upon them to assist in carrying out the school's mission. It's the perfect time to make families:

- Feel welcome;
- Review and clarify the components of the school compact;
- Distribute parent volunteer surveys;
- Make family friendly versions of learning standards available to families (by grade level); and
- Explain how those standards connect to the work in the classroom.

There are plenty of ideas, practices, sample forms and surveys in Solid Foundation Resources that help schools create a welcoming atmosphere for Open House and connect families to schools early in the school year.

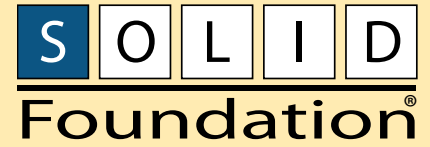
Source: Solid Foundation/ADI



Your school's Open House is the perfect opportunity to build relationships.



Check out Section 10, pages 5-11, of your Solid Foundation Resource Manual for Open House Ideas.



Reading • Studying • Respect • Responsibility

Solid Foundation is a school-based team process that helps:

- Strengthen family-school connections
- Engage parents in their children's learning
- Improve student, academic and social learning

NEED HELP?

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Parent Leaders Facilitate Information Sharing

The Solid Foundation Team at East Norriton Middle School noted that parents were unsure where to find information about their students, school activities and the parent club. In addition to putting a calendar on the school's webpage and including it in a monthly newsletter, they have since established email accounts (president@gmail) for parent club leaders. Leaders agree to check email regularly, read and handle or refer to the appropriate person. The email account remains the same year to year which ensures consistency in communication and ease of transition in parent volunteer leadership.