

Building Block: Communication – Information Technology in Education

E-Parenting

Web-based student information reporting, sometimes referred to as E-parenting, offers a web host and portal system for monitoring student assignments, attendance, grades, school nurse activity, disciplinary and even lunch information. E-Parenting is a very convenient and effective way for parents and teachers to communicate about student progress. Such systems are touted to increase parent involvement and raise student achievement. For parents whose work does not allow active involvement at school, or removes them from the home environment for days at a time, these systems allow frequent checking and monitoring of their child's academic activity simply by logging on to the school's secured information system.

These systems can also give parents insight into the subject matter in their child's classes at any given time and become alerted to areas of difficulty while there is still time to make improvement during the



grading period. Often times a link directly to the teacher is offered on the report summary page providing an immediate avenue of communication to express concerns or ask questions about the information being viewed. The system also gives teachers the flexibility of responding to parent concerns as time allows during their busy day.

Given the ability to track student activity throughout each grading period and communicate conveniently as needed with school staff, many parents feel these systems could replace the old-fashioned, hard-copy report cards.

Website Parent Resources

In developing a website for your school, don't overlook a Parent Resources webpage. It is an excellent way to keep important information readily available to parents and could be used to:

- Post your school's parent involvement policy, Compact, homework guidelines and classroom visit procedures.
- Post tips for parents on such topics as homework help, reading at home, building respect and responsibility, and knowing your child's friends.
- Request volunteer helpers.
- Provide links to parent resource websites.
- Provide links to state and local educational agencies websites.
- View and download student handbooks.
- Review and download school discipline policies and procedures.

- Download school forms such as:
 - Volunteer survey forms.
 - School physical forms.
 - Authorization to administer medication form.
 - Permission to participate forms.
 - Pre-arranged or excused absence forms.
 - Free or reduced lunch forms.

As children progress into and through the upper grades, communication with parents seems to become more challenging. Information technology in education can be helpful in bridging that communication gap. Parents can initiate and maintain contact with the school outside of normal school hours. No longer do parents need to rely on their children as the main source of information regarding school functions and activities.



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

You can access this information online on your school's Solid Foundation page, Step 6 "View Resource Manual", Building Block: Communication
<http://www.adi.org/Inventory/Pdf/Tab%204%20-%20Communication/4CommunicationIT.pdf>



Contact:

Caroline Allen
Education Partnership Coordinator
callen@csc.csiu.org

Kathy Kurpeikis
Education Specialist
kkurpeikis@adi.org

Karen Shanoski
Family-School-Community Partnerships Project Manager
kshanoski@csc.csiu.org

More information can be found at:

www.Center-School.org/pa-pirc
www.adi.org/solidfoundation
www.Families-Schools.org



PA PIRC is housed at Center for Schools and Communities
275 Grandview Avenue, Suite 200
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-1661
www.Center-School.org/pa-pirc