

How Family Friendly is Your School?

WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

1. Friendly signs inside and out welcome families and visitors.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time
2. Office staff are friendly—recognize visitors right away, provide information easily, and answer the phone in a way that makes people glad they have called.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time
3. There is a comfortable place/room where families can meet and borrow books and educational information.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO ENGAGE FAMILIES IN IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

4. Current student work is displayed throughout the building. Explanations are provided for the purpose of the work.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time
5. Programs and activities help families understand what their children are learning and promote high standards.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time
6. Special workshops, learning kits, and other activities show families how to help their children at home—and respond to what families say they want to know about.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time
7. The school reports to parents about student progress and how teachers, parents and community members can work together to make improvements.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TEACHERS AND FAMILIES

8. There is a process in place to welcome new families to the school, offers tours and introduces them to staff and other families.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time
9. Teachers and families have frequent opportunities to meet face-to-face and get to know each other—class meetings, home visits, outings, class observations, etc.
 Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

10. A family liaison helps teachers connect to families and bridge barriers of language and culture.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

DEVELOPING FAMILIES' SELF-CONFIDENCE

11. Families are involved in planning how they would like to be involved at the school.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

12. School committees and the School Council reflect the diversity of the school community and actively recruit and welcome families from all backgrounds.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

13. The school is open and accessible—it is easy for parents to meet with the principal, talk to teachers and counsellors, and bring up issues and concerns.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR FAMILIES AND STAFF

14. Families learn how the school system works and how to be an effective advocate for their child.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

15. Teachers learn about effective approaches to working with families of diverse cultural backgrounds.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

16. Families and staff have opportunities to learn together how to collaborate to improve student achievement.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

17. The school reaches out to identify and draw in local community resources that can assist staff, students and families.

- Already doing this Could do this easily This will take time

WHICH AREAS ARE YOU DOING WELL IN?

WHICH WILL NEED MORE WORK?

REFLECTION: What steps could you take to help your school become more family-friendly?