TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE

Teachers and Parents
Winning and Keeping Parent Support
An Online Graduate Course

Course Description

Teachers and Parents: Winning and Keeping Parent Support presents proven and innovative methods to gain and keep parent support. This model emphasizes interventions through a cooperative team approach between teachers and parents. Based on research endorsed by the National PTA, the skills and procedures taught in this course and practiced in applied assignments will enable educators to maintain supportive involvement from parents of even the most challenging students.

Course Objectives
- Discuss the importance of parent involvement in education.
- Assess the changing demographics in American families.
- Identify barriers to parent involvement in education.
- Identify barriers for teachers involving parents.
- Create strategies for reducing barriers and roadblocks to partnerships between teachers and parents.
- Share successful and recommended parent contact practices.
- Design a "first call" to target parents.
- Analyze the value of making positive phone calls home.
- Create a homework policy.
- Design strategies to help parents solve their children's most common homework problems.
- Conduct and evaluate the success of a parent conference.
- Assess strategies to maintain control during stressful conferences.
- Critique methods of de-escalating conflicts
- Compare and contrast factors that lead to successful negotiation.
- Assess the importance of systematic record keeping.
- Examine the IEP conference as a potential prototype where parents function as members of a team.
- Assess the importance of systematic record keeping.
- Apply research-based principles in assessing parent-teacher relations.

Curriculum Design

This is a sixty-hour course that will be offered over a period of 13 weeks.

Skill and Hardware Requirements

Students may use either a Macintosh computer or a PC with Windows 2000 or higher. Students should possess basic word processing skills and have Internet access as well as an active email account. Students also are expected to have a basic knowledge of how to use a Web browser, such as Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, etc.

Course Materials

The required textbook for this course is <u>Strengthening the Parent Teacher Partnership</u>, written by Jane Cofies. A variety of readings will be referenced throughout the course. Other supplemental readings will be provided.

Module Outline

Introduction	Introduction and Overview	<u>Reading Assignment</u> Review Table of Contents, Index and review the Resources A,B,C <u>Written Assignments</u> **1. Introduction Talking Point**
Module 1	Parent Involvement	<u>Reading & Web Assignments</u> Course Module 1, Introduction and Chapter 1 in the textbook, and assigned Web sites. <u>Written Assignments</u> **1. Reflection on Module 1, the assigned reading, and Web sites**
Module 2	Barriers and Roadblocks to Parent Teacher Partnerships	<u>Reading & Web Assignments</u> Course Module 2, Chapters 2 and 3, and assigned Web sites. <u>Written Assignments</u> **1. Reflection on Module 2, the assigned reading, and Web sites**
Module 3	Making the Most of Early Contacts	<u>Reading & Web Assignments</u> Course Module 3 and assigned Web sites. <u>Written Assignments</u> **1. Reflection on Module 3, the assigned reading and Web sites** **2. Early Contacts Talking Point**

Module 4	Establishing Effective Communication	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 4, Chapter 4, and assigned Web sites. Written Assignments **1. Reflection on Module 4, assigned reading, Web sites, and Communication Activity**
Module 5	Helping Parents Help Their Children	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 5, Chapter 8, and Web sites. Written Assignments **1. Reflection on Module 5, assigned reading and Web sites, Homework policy** **2. Helping Parents Help Their Children Talking Point**
Module 6	Parent Conferences - Issues and Approaches	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 6, Chapters 5, and Web sites. Written Assignments **1. Reflection on Module 6, the assigned reading, and Web sites**
Module 7	De-Escalating Conflicts During Conferences	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 7, Chapter 6, and assigned Web sites. Written Assignments **1. Reflection on Module 7, the assigned reading, and Web sites** **2. Conference Experiences Talking Point**
Module 8	Strategies for Reaching Consensus	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 8, Chapter 9, and assigned Web sites Written Assignments **1. Reflection on Module 8, the assigned reading, and Web sites**
Module 9	Documentation and Referral	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 9, Chapter 7, and assigned Web sites. Written Assignments **1. Reflection on Module 9, the assigned reading, and Web sites** **2. Documentation and Referral Talking Points**

Module 10	Research Paper, Final Project, Exam	Reading & Web Assignments Course Module 10 and Chapter 10 in the course text. Written Assignments 1. Talking Point 2. Final Project 3. Final Exam

Student Requirements

1. Participation: Participate in all activities
2. Reading: Students will complete all assigned reading in the textbook, Web sites, and research articles or best practices and answer questions in the appropriate Forum thread. All modules contain a reading assignment from the text. After reading the material, students will write a one-half to one page paper in which they reflect upon the ideas in the reading and how they might apply that information.
3. Final Integration Project: Students may choose to complete either a research report or a parent/student handbook for their final integration project.
   Parent/Student Handbook: Students selecting this option will prepare a parent/student handbook appropriate for their setting. Models and examples will be provided. This project will be due at the end of the course.
   Research Report: Students selecting this option will conduct a review of the professional literature on the relationship between teachers and parents and student achievement. Identify at least three major findings or themes from the research, and use these as criteria for assessing your own situation and experience. Describe the findings and write a two to three page assessment of your involvement with parents relative to your findings.
4. Final Exam: An online exam will be given and will cover material presented in the Modules.

Grading Criteria

Assignment	Points
Talking Points	30
Reading Assignments	40
Final Integration Project	20
Final Exam	10
Total Points	100

Grading Scale

93-100	A
85-92	B
77-84	

Student Academic Integrity

Participants guarantee that all academic classwork is original. Any academic dishonesty or plagiarism (to take ideas, writings, etc. from another and offer them as one's own) violates student academic behavior standards as outlined by our partnering colleges and universities and is subject to academic disciplinary action.