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Elementary School Teacher Survey Says...

When Rowan Partners for Education asked Rowan-Salisbury School System elementary school educators how important they thought parental / caretaker involvement is to a student's education, more than 97% believed it was extremely important.

The teachers from seventeen elementary schools that participated in the survey at the end of the 2005-2006 school year felt that parents / caretakers are somewhat involved with their student's school, but not to the degree they would like to see.

The survey data was presented to Superintendent Dr. Judy Grissom and the elementary school principals who have shared the results with their staffs.

Teachers identified the following as successful strategies that are being used to increase parental / caretaker participation in activities to support their child's education.

- Teachers felt that parents were more involved when they communicate with teachers through signed agendas and planners. This process keeps parents in-tune to their child's class work and provides a way to communicate with the teacher.
- Websites have provided parents another way to communicate with all levels of RSSS staff. Websites exist for most teachers, classes, all schools, and the Rowan Salisbury School System. Parents can use e-mail to contact staff and can sign up to receive an e-mail message when a teacher's Website is updated. Websites provide valuable information for students and their families.
- Our teachers find Parent / Teacher conferences helpful in discussing progress and areas of improvement for students. This opportunity provides face-to-face meetings which help to strengthen the relationship between student / parent / teacher.
- Involvement with PTA. It was felt that parents who took an active part in attending PTA activities and other functions held at the school are more connected to their child's education.
- Teachers also find newsletters an effective way to communicate with parents. Many classrooms and schools provide newsletters in English and Spanish.

Rowan Partners for Education's Parental Involvement committee, chaired by Barbara Moose, realizes a top priority is to educate parents about the important role they play to ensure their child receives the best education possible.

Rowan Partners for Education, in collaboration with Adolescent and Family Enrichment Council, is hosting a free workshop entitled **“Parents on Track”** on: **Tuesday April 24th at Central United Methodist Church in Spencer from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.** Childcare will be provided and light refreshments will be served.

Register by contacting:

- Rowan Partners for Education at 704-642-0700 lwooten@educaterowan.org or
- Adolescent and Family Enrichment Council at 704-630-0481 afecrc@salisbury.net.

Please indicate: your name, child’s school, grade, whether you need childcare and if so, number of children attending.

Information flyers for this pilot workshop have been provided to students attending North Rowan Elementary, Elizabeth Hanford Dole Elementary, C. T. Overton Elementary, and H. D. Isenberg Elementary schools. This identical workshop will be offered to other elementary schools in Rowan County in the fall at various locations and dates.

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