
OVERVIEW ON IMPROVING PARTNERSHIPS

Connecticut State Department of Education

Hartford, Connecticut

Despite disseminating information on school, family, and community partnerships through newsletters, presentations at conferences and other meetings, and a lending library for special education and family support resources, generating interest in our two-day Action Team training sessions is an ongoing challenge. Development of an *Overview on Improving School-Family-Community Partnerships* has helped meet this challenge. This half-day workshop is designed to provide information on the six types of involvement as a foundation for ideas about how to build a school, family, and community partnership program. We invite interested parties in our database, as well as all Connecticut public schools, including magnet schools, charter schools, and vocational-technical schools. The workshop is open to anyone with an interest—teachers, school staff, family members, or community agency employees.

We have found that schools require more information before they are ready to form an action team and send all members to two full days of training. This multi-tiered approach to helping schools develop their school, family, and community partnerships has the advantage of not asking schools to make too much of a commitment before they are ready. In the last year, we filled five Overview workshops to capacity and had to maintain waiting lists. We have already seen the number of applications for our two-day training workshop rise, as well as noticed an increase in the quality of some applications and in the preparedness of those teams who first had some members participate in an Overview.

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