



Resources for Nevada State GEAR UP Ambassadors & SPIFs

Suggestions To Get Parents Involved

- 1 Start the year by asking the parents to complete contracts and survey. It is a requirement for the GEAR UP program and parents' opportunity to learn about GEAR UP.
- 2 Provide GEAR UP welcome kits throughout the year for new families. See www.GearUpNV.org for brochures and additional resources.
- 3 Find ways to increase parents' comfort in and with the school and GEAR UP. Know who they are (their name, their child, etc.), so that they feel they are a parent of the GEAR UP program.
- 4 Involve parents in goal-setting for their children such as school goals, personal growth goals and life goals (see the GEAR UP Student Handbook: www.GearUpNV.org).
- 5 Create a "Take Your Parent to School" event to familiarize parents with the building, GEAR UP personnel, and program.
- 6 Consider hosting GEAR UP events at different venues, such as libraries, community centers, and museums.
- 7 Organize self-directed parenting groups. Provide the time, space, coffee, and resources. Ask one parent to invite others and lead the discussion. Possible topics can include: How to support your children academically or preparing for college.
- 8 Create a parent newsletter about GEAR UP.
- 9 Post a "question of the week" on the GEAR UP newsletter, school reader board, or website to get parents talking with their children.
- 10 Ask parents to judge or evaluate student GEAR UP exhibitions (art, science, humanities, math projects) using a rubric.
- 11 Create GEAR UP volunteer opportunities such as campus visits, helping with events, bringing food, translating and interpreting for GEAR UP events.
- 12 Keep GEAR UP flyers short and to the point. Use bullet points and answer the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why). Remember to translate flyers.
- 13 Involve GEAR UP students in getting parents there. Student-led conferences and student-led meetings attract parents.

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When parents are involved in school, children go further in school.







A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, educational level or cultural background. When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically.

As a GEAR UP professional, you can help create a learning environment where parents and students can strengthen their educational bond.

Source: <http://www.nea.org/tools/17360.htm>

Types of Parental Involvement

Researchers have developed a framework of six types of parental involvement with associated activities. The table illustrates the types of involvement with associated activities that you can implement.

Types of Parental Involvement	Description
Parenting 	Assist families with parenting skills, family support, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions to support learning at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families' backgrounds, cultures, and goals for children.
Communicating 	Communicate with families about school programs and student progress. Create two-way communication channels between school and home.
Volunteering 	Improve recruitment, training, activities, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and as audiences at the school or in other locations. Enable educators to work with volunteers who support students and the school.
Learning at Home 	Involve families with their children in academic learning at home, including homework, goal setting, and other curriculum-related activities.
Decision Making 	Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy activities through school councils or improvement teams, committees, and parent organizations.
Collaborating with the Community 	Coordinate resources and services for families, students, and the school with community groups, including businesses, agencies, cultural and civic organizations, and colleges or universities.

Use these types of parental involvement to engage parents with GEAR UP activities and programs. See www.GearUpNV.org for more ideas to involve parents and students.

Sources: <http://www.amle.org/Research/ResearchSummaries/ParentInvolvement/tabid/274/Default.aspx>
<http://www.nhparentsmakethedifference.org/6types.htm>

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