

What's New in Research

November 2009

The Report: “Family Engagement: A Shared Responsibility”

Where It’s From: Harvard Family Research Project, November 2009

The Findings: Family engagement needs to be a collaborative effort – learning happens before students start school, during the school day, and outside of school hours, so family engagement is more than simply supporting school policies.

Some Specifics:

- Schools and communities should offer parents and other family members opportunities to be involved and engaged
- Family engagement includes co-constructed roles; families and schools should actively discuss their “complementary responsibilities,” and agree on what each is responsible for
- Educators and others should seek out information, research, and experiences of peers to learn how families can best be engaged and improve their own policies and practice

The Full Report Is Available At: <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/family-engagement-a-shared-responsibility>

The Report: “The State of City Leadership for Children and Families”

Where It’s From: National League of Cities and the Institute for Youth, Education, & Families, 2009

The Findings: This report examined ten issues affecting children and families, and how cities and municipalities across the country are trying to improve policy and practice related to them. The ten issues are: early childhood, education, after-school, youth in transition, youth violence prevention, family economic success, community wellness, youth civic engagement, and local infrastructure for children, youth and families. Several initiatives and programs in Baltimore were identified in the report as promising practices.

Some Specifics:

- In education, creating community schools and offering school-based wraparound services is highlighted as an emerging trend (example: Baltimore’s Community Schools Initiative)
- In after-school, innovations include aligning transportation (example: a shuttle bus program in St. Paul, Minnesota) and providing job experience for teens (example: apprenticeship programs such as After-School Matters in Chicago and After-School Matters II in Baltimore)
- In after-school, emerging trends include increasing and improving programs for older youth and creating citywide systems to support after-school (example: Baltimore’s After-School Strategy)

The Full Report Is Available At:

http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/E263FE71C1534FFA8CE583D83B386F65/IYEF_State_of_City_Leadership_9-09.pdf