

## STRENGTHENING SCHOOL-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF LEARNERS

by:

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The holistic development of learners extends beyond academic instruction and requires the collaborative efforts of schools, families, and community stakeholders. Education is a shared responsibility. Learners benefit most when the support systems within the school and community are aligned towards a common educational goal. Strengthening school - community partnerships is therefore essential in creating a supportive learning environment that nurture the academic, social, and moral development of the students.

Parental involvement is a critical component of effective school - community partnerships. Parents serve as the first teachers of the learners. They play a significant role in shaping attitudes toward learning. Epstein (2011) emphasized that meaningful family engagement positively influences learners' academic achievement, motivation, behaviors, and attendance. Learners develop a stronger sense of responsibility and accountability for their education when parents are actively involved in school activities and learning processes.

In schools, parental involvement may take various forms, including participation in orientation programs, learning support activities, school-based initiative, and parent-teacher conferences. Open and consistent communication between teachers and parents helps address the academic and behavioral concerns of each student promptly and effectively. This kind of collaboration ensures that learning is reinforced both at school and at home.

Community involvement further enhances the learning experiences by providing real-world contexts and additional resources. Community-based programs like reading initiatives, environmental projects, and values formation activities allow learners to apply classroom learning to real-life situations. Such activities support the development of social responsibility and citizenship among learners.

School – community partnerships also contribute to the creation of safe and supportive learning environments. Learners feel a sense of belonging and security once schools collaborate with stakeholders. Positive community engagement promotes respect, discipline, and shared accountability for learner welfare. This collaborative environment aligns with DepEd's emphasis on child learner well-being, child protection, and values education.

In conclusion, strengthening school – community partnerships are essential for the holistic development of elementary learners. Schools create supportive learning environments that enhance academic achievement, values formation, and learner well-being through active parental involvement and community engagement. To lead such initiatives, it demonstrates professional leadership, commitment to holistic education, and alignment with DepEd's vision of inclusive and community-supported environment.

#### References:

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