



AFT EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION COURSE OVERVIEW

Course: School, Family and Community: Supporting Student Learning

Summary

The primary function of this course is to help school staff understand how they can assist parents to better support their children as learners. Topics explored include: (1) using effective communication strategies to develop learning partnerships with families; (2) designing more productive homework assignments to involve families; (3) explaining classroom work and grading systems to parents; and (4) developing school wide parent involvement plans.

Course Content

History and Program Overview

Participants will acquire foundational knowledge about the history of family involvement on which schools can build school-home partnerships that support student learning.

Building a Family Learning Environment

This section explores the characteristics of effective home learning environments. Participants will examine the strengths inherent in families that create conditions at home that promote learning.

Communication Skills and Strategies

Participants will learn about characteristics of effective communication and identify strategies that can successfully link school and home. This section also covers ways to effectively communicate information on the school's report card.

Homework and Home Learning

In this section, participants will study research findings about homework and home learning. The knowledge gained through this process is designed to enable educators to work with parents in developing programs and practices that help maximize student engagement in and the successful completion of homework.

School Programs and Practices: How Schools can Improve the Educational

In this unit participants will examine the characteristics of effective communication and will identify strategies that can successfully link school and home.

School Programs and Practices: How Schools Can Improve the Educational Climate for Learning

The purpose of this section is to study the development and implementation of programs and practices that promote student achievement through parent and family involvement.

Key Researchers

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