

Involving parents

Partnerships with parents are important when implementing drug education programs because parents are the primary and most enduring educators of their children. Parents need to know how drug education is taught as part of the curriculum and how drug education fits into the student welfare policy.

Drug education and parent and community participation and involvement can be enhanced by establishing and maintaining networks with local agencies. These include health workers and NSW Police, particularly Youth Liaison Officers.

How can schools involve parents in drug education?

Information or grade/year meetings are useful strategies because they can facilitate two-way communication between parents and teachers. However, attendance at a drug information meeting will not necessarily gauge the success of parent involvement within a school. There are many other ways in which schools can involve parents as partners in the education of their children.

What communication strategies can schools choose to involve parents?

Oral communication

- announcements at morning assembly
- meeting with (one or more) key community members
- local ethnic radio announcements, interviews
- information meeting with parents
- language specific meeting
- part of grade/year meeting
- P & C meeting
- informal discussion with parents who visit school
- telephone information 'trees'
- student presentations or performances

Written material

- letter of explanation
- newsletter item/s
- invitations from students
- local newspaper articles
- letters or fliers to community leaders
- student posters



Digital material

- texting
- emails
- information on school website

Learning and teaching activities

- providing homework activities (Family activity sheets) for parents
- information/invitations for parents written by students
- invitations to parents to attend a particular lesson
- display of student work
- presentation of units of work