

There are a lot of pieces that  
make up our school system...



But there's one piece missing.

Your Government can  
put it in place.



Advancing Parent-School Partnerships



# The Parent-School relationship

It's the piece that's made up of ideas and initiatives designed to bring schools, parents and communities closer together. Research shows it improves student outcomes. To make it happen takes special people in unique roles.

What would you call these people?  
Here are some thoughts

- Family Engagement Officer
- Family Learning Area Leader
- Family Facilitator
- Family Field Officer
- Parent Ambassador
- Parent Connector
- Parent Engagement Coordinator
- Parent Leader
- Parent Mentor
- Parent Peer Navigator
- Parent Specialist
- Parent Resource Leader



Family Engagement is more than one person.  
It's a collective

- Family Leadership Institute
- Family Engagement Division/Office/Unit @DET / Regional Office
- Family Success Network
- Parent Resource Centres
- Parent University, Career & Pathway Road Shows

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## Ideas and initiatives.

### What DET can do

Create and allocate Family Engagement Funding line in the SRP (for Positions and/or Programs)

Require the Victoria School Building Authority to instruct all new and refurbished schools to have family friendly entries and spaces allocated for family conferencing, counselling, gathering and training

Encourage existing schools to have Family Gathering Places & Spaces to conduct Family Engagement initiatives

Fund and facilitate Regional Family Forums with RD, AED & SEILs – regional level opportunity for school communities in local learning areas to have conversations with the system

Extend Community Hub Services to more Victorian School Communities

Promote and fund Parent Outreach Services for school communities seeking those services

Explore and encourage schools to have an App to translate School Information/Communication into other languages

Build further Community Engagement reforms as outlined in the Marrung Plan

Partnership forums - engage Koorie & other CALD families for opportunities with parent groups and school councils and working with Koorie Education Support Officers and Coordinators in support of school community in regard cultural responsiveness

Support schools to explore Adult Education to develop local partnerships with employers and industry for other career planning and opportunities for students/parents on school site

Develop Parent Learning Kits - for families to know how our Victorian education system works, understand learning and teaching methods in our classrooms, strategies and support for parents to navigate school policy and procedures

Fund and trial a Teacher Home Visit Program

Fund and implement Parent Engagement Training for Teacher Educators, Teachers, Leaders and School Administration

Continue to resource and invest in Conflict Resolution for Schools

Advance Parent-School Partnerships in our Victorian Government Schools



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Ideas and initiatives.

## **What Schools can do**

Family Engagement Framework - whole of school strategy embedded and reflected in the school strategic, annual implementation and Principal Performance Plans

Family Games Night / Art Exhibition / Science Shows and Career Expos – where families join in and learn, share and contribute their skills and knowledge with potential employer and industry mentors, enabling parents to explore opportunities and possibilities for their children and themselves

Family Library Time / Story Time – where literacy coaches can be on hand for families to listen and learn literacy tips and strategies

School Community Gardens – veggie patch produce to be shared with students and their families

Parent as Partners Progressive Dinners – whole school event where students, parents and teachers showcase their learning & teaching at the various levels, share & exchange ideas and knowledge

Principal Coffee Conversations e.g. monthly – school level opportunity to check in with families  
ie Pop up Car Park Cafes to share and exchange information

Family Focus – scheduling times throughout the year to allow working parents/carers to witness and participate in classroom learning

Family Language Lessons – parents and children can learn English or other languages together  
University of Third Age (U3A) located and supported in school settings especially for retirees and grandparents