

PASS 3: Strategies that Enrich and Expand Student Learning

Description of the New Jersey Model of Home/School Partnerships for Student Learning

The PASS model refers to the term "parent" as any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.

The New Jersey Department of Education's model of a Partnership Academy for Student Success (PASS) is singularly focused on student achievement. The model complements traditional parent involvement activities and provides a map to authentic partnerships based on parent engagement in student learning.

Vision:

The NJDOE PASS model will strengthen student learning and achievement through home/school partnership strategies.

Mission:

The NJDOE PASS model maps the pursuit of a common belief that all students can experience benefits from a united academic partnership of educators, families, and communities.

Goals:

The NJDOE will:

- Present and support a model for home/school academic partnerships to engage parents in student learning, accelerate student success, and foster the exchange of ideas on education issues.
- Guide implementation of the PASS model and elevate the academic partnership capacity of educators and parents.

Description:

The PASS model will:

- Redefine a new and more meaningful role for parents in NJ education.
- Connect teachers' and parents' partnership activities and time commitments directly to student learning and achievement.
- Provide capacity-building guidance for educators and families.
- Offer supports in a customizable toolkit to meet the climate and cultural needs of any district or school.
- Support traditional parent involvement activities and build on ESEA requirements/compliance to elevate effective academic partnership practices.
- Remain responsive to student needs, honor parent interest in educational issues that affect his or her child, support educators' dedication to each student, and align with the NJDOE strategic goals.

Educators and parents in schools that meet the practices of the PASS model are encouraged to share their successful partnership profiles at: informccss@doe.state.nj.us.

Justification:

We believe:

Historically, educators' quest for increasing student performance has been missing a critical and influential component for student achievement and successful schools—significant academic partnerships that link internal and external student learning, support, and achievement.

We believe:

NJDOE has an extraordinary opportunity to effectively ignite and respond to the recent surge of parent interest in educational initiatives. This is a rare opportunity to unify goals for student achievement and, through implementation of the PASS model, the timing allows for the creation of a breakout role for parents in a fundamentally different direction.

We believe:

The genesis of the PASS model is targeted, high-level academic partnerships between parents and educators intended to facilitate open and productive conversations about teaching, learning, and innovative practices that influence student success.

We believe:

The PASS model brings value to parent engagement in student learning strategies designed for use *beyond* the classroom so that students can learn and perform better *in* their classroom.

The new global economy and workplace have changed the expectations for student learning and performance in the 21st century.

...What got us here won't get us there...

Standards, measurement, and new student performance expectations have become complex.

Students need educators, parents, and communities to collaborate on their behalf. New roles and new ideas of home/school partnerships must change so that students are better prepared for college and their career.

PASS partnerships will map that course.

Clarification: PASS is not a parent academy in the traditional sense but rather a partnership and systemic model for engaging parents in direct student learning.

Some schools and districts use the term “Parent Academy” to describe structured classes offered to parents by educators, positioning teachers as experts and parents as non-experts. In such traditional classes, often educators “teach” or “train” parents in a similar way that they teach students. Some traditional parent academy topics are designed to help parents navigate the school system; gain needed personal skills such as English language acquisition; find supportive community and social services; and build strong, healthy parenting skills. Most districts and schools fill that role very well. The state’s PASS model recognizes the value of many classes for parents.

The New Jersey PASS model is different. It maps a systemic change and authentic academic partnership wherein parents and educators engage in roles of equal importance. The PASS model facilitates a shared world in which educators and parents share their knowledge to support and enhance the learning outcomes of children.

PASS is focused solely on change and support for student learning. Parents not only learn about ideas and new information from teachers, but educators listen to parents and incorporate their feedback and ideas to support students in the classroom. Together they develop strategies that will support general and individual student learning in and out of school. PASS materials and activities are designed for use as a prompt and springboard to facilitate open, current and productive conversations about teaching, learning, and innovative practices that influence student success. When embedded in home/school relationships, PASS partnerships can also change components of a school climate that impact multiple factors of student success.

Educators who review PASS for inclusion in their district’s or school’s systemic efforts to improve the quality of student learning should remember that PASS partnerships with parents are measured in factors other than attendance numbers or the amount of project funding. A school’s comprehensive plan to improve student learning and achievement will benefit students more if it includes a new role for parents and a new definition of meaningful home/school partnerships.

The New Jersey Department of Education’s model for home/school partnerships – **The Partnership Academy for Student Success (PASS)** provides documents and support tools intended to complement information about the state’s academic standards and annual assessments for students. The PASS model provides resources, materials, and opportunities for parents and educators to build home/school partnerships in the best interest of students’ academic success. For information on the NJDOE PASS model go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>. Send questions to: informccss@doe.state.nj.us.