

Ten Steps to Success

for Developing School-Parent Compacts

1. Designate a Leader

- Pick the best person for your school: principal, assistant principal, literacy and math coaches, teacher leader, home-school coordinator or other person with leadership skills.

2. Motivate and Get Buy-In from the Staff

- At a staff meeting with teachers and members of the school leadership team, explain what School-Parent Compacts are and how they contribute to student success.

3. Align Compact Goals with the School Improvement Plan

- Review and analyze schoolwide data and the goals of the school improvement plan to determine which specific learning goals the compact will focus on for the year.

4. Grade Level Input

- At data team meetings, grade level teachers develop grade level goals (no more than three) for the compact.

5. Outreach to Families - It's All about the Conversations

- Share the goals developed by the grade level teachers with parents/guardians. This can be done in workshops, orientation events, informal get togethers, home school organization, newsletters, emails, parent nights, report card nights, etc.
- Hold two-way conversations between and among teachers and families at each grade level to discuss how they can work together to accomplish the goals. Develop home learning strategies aligned with the goals that families can use on a regular basis.

6. Don't Forget the Students

- After the teachers and parents decide how they will collaborate to increase student achievement, ask the students what they can do to be successful and how they want their teachers and parents to support them.

7. Pull it All Together

- Create an attractive, family-friendly document that captures all stakeholder input.
- Design a "roll out plan" for introducing the compact to families.

8. Align All Resources

- Determine your professional development needs based upon your compact goals.
- Allocate funds to support school and home learning with speakers, supplies, materials, etc.

9. Market the Compact

- Seize the opportunity at every event to keep the goals of the school in the forefront.
- At conference time, discuss the goals/strategies with families. Offer suggestions to modify the strategies if necessary.

10. Review, Revise and Celebrate Progress Each Year