

Parents and Teachers GEAR UP!

Why Is Parental Involvement Important?

When parents are involved in their children's education, kids do better in school. Want to learn how to help your child achieve and succeed? Read on!

In study after study, researchers discover how important it is for parents to be actively involved in their child's education. Here are some of the findings of major research into parental involvement: When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school — and the schools they go to are better.

The family makes critical contributions to student achievement from preschool through high school. A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, educational level or cultural background. When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically.

Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time,



Parents of Boyle County seniors learn about financial aid options at a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshop sponsored by KHEAA and The Student Loan People.

helping with homework and discussing school matters.

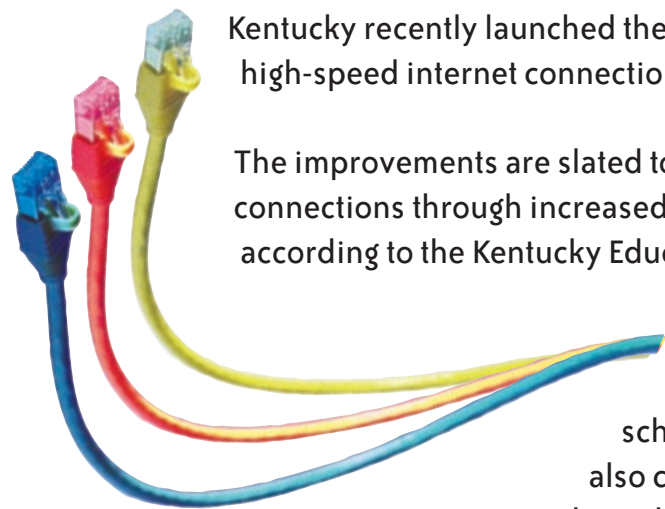
The earlier that parent involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects.

Positive results of parental involvement

include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, improved behavior, and restored confidence among parents in their children's schooling.

Source: NEA: Getting Involved in Your Child's Education <http://www.nea.org/parents/index.html>

Schools Speed up Web Access



Kentucky recently launched the Kentucky Education Network, providing high-speed internet connections in schools across the state.

The improvements are slated to give all students access to fast web connections through increased bandwidth delivered to school districts, according to the Kentucky Education Cabinet.

The connections offer such options as videoconferencing between Kentucky schools and among schools in the nation. It also can be used for shared learning resources throughout the state.

Source: Herald-Leader Staff Report, www.kentucky.com/181/story/215730.html

A New Attitude toward school

Dear Mr. (Zac) Wray and GEAR UP,

I'm writing to let you know how much I appreciate the GEAR UP program and for the recent field trip: "Mom and Dad Go to College." It was extremely helpful for my son and me; it has made a huge difference in his attitude towards school. He is now really looking forward to college and thinking about what he needs to do academically to get there. He is excited about a degree in engineering, computer science or even in a space program.

I can't tell you what a relief this is for me as a parent. We keep telling our children, "We need to get you ready for college," but the concept of college is so far away for them that it doesn't seem real. I truly believe that this past

GEAR UP field trip opened my son's eyes. He realizes now that college isn't that far away and it is something to really look forward to. It helped me to see that there are options to help pay for college and how important it is to start researching colleges and financial aid even now when my son is in middle school.

Thank you so very much for helping us. I am truly grateful for GEAR UP opening our eyes and helping us feel positive about this big step.

Sincerely,
Rita Ramsay
GEAR UP Parent



??Questions/ Comments??

Do you have questions or comments about this issue of the GEAR UP Gazette? Would you like to submit your own story for publication in the next issue? If so, please contact:



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