

Parent Training Curriculum

School2Home provides six hours of parent training delivered in three, two-hour sessions to parents and guardians of participating students. After the parent or adult representative of a participating student has received training, the student may take home the School2Home computing device. After attending training, parents will know how to guide student use of the Internet and will have skills and tools to increase their communication with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Overall Goal: Parents will gain the necessary knowledge and skills to become active participants in School2Home, impacting positively the academic outcomes of their child.

Learning Objectives: Parents participating in the School2Home parent training program:

- Know the goals and components of the School2Home program.
- Learn effective communication strategies to build relationships with and access information from school staff.
- Acquire basic computer literacy skills in word processing, accessing the web and using email.
- Understand the importance of computer literacy for homework completion, classroom participation and college preparation.
- Know how to access school resources and student academic status information online (where available).
- Learn how to ensure safe web use.
- Know how to access technical support, order a high-speed Internet line and set up an email account.

The Session Modules: The School2Home Parent Training is designed around recommendations from parents, students and teachers who participated in nine School2Home focus groups. In these focus groups, participants discussed overall reactions to the School2Home program and provided suggestions regarding implementation and training topics. Findings from the focus groups were utilized in order to plan effective training sessions. Issues of relevance to parents included: child online safety, access to technical support and the need for basic computer training. All of these issues are addressed in the curriculum.

In addition, sessions are based on credible research on technology and parent engagement in schools. From the research, three key concepts arose that have been used to conceptualize the learning objectives. They are: (1) When schools engage parents and parents are involved, there is a positive impact on student outcomes; (2) Parents become more effective in supporting their child's school success when they know how schools work and have relationships with school staff; and (3) School2Home parents must have confidence using the computer, accessing the web and monitoring their child's safe Internet use.

Sessions provide parents with the tools they need in order to communicate with teachers and school staff. Parents also learn basic computer skills to communicate online, gather information regarding their child's schooling, assist their child online and ensure the web safety of their child. The themes included in each module, drawn from the aforementioned, are as follows:

- **Module 1: Introduction to School2Home:** Learning School2Home goals and components, using the computing device, exploring the web, communicating with school staff, finding information on technical support and ordering high-speed Internet.

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- Module 2: Computers and Student Learning: Exploring the web, sending email, exploring computers and student learning, locating college information and communicating with teachers.
- Module 3: Parents Partnering with Schools: Practicing online safety, communicating with counselors, learning student academic status, exploring computers and student learning, getting technical support and setting up email.

Parent Training Schedule: The modules are provided in hands-on sessions at the school site, with at least one presenter for every 30 parents. Although specific dates and times will be negotiated with each school, parents are likely to have the option of weekday morning sessions, weekday evening sessions, Saturday morning sessions and Saturday afternoon sessions. A survey of parents at each school will determine the best times and days to conduct the training. Since most schools will need training for 400 to 900 parents, the complete training schedule is likely to extend over a two-month period.

Parent Training Curriculum Development: The primary author of the School2Home Parent Training Curriculum is Families In Schools, a non-profit organization in Los Angeles, California. The curriculum was developed with staff support from School2Home and The Children's Partnership as well as the parents and staff from Stevenson Middle School in Los Angeles, California, and Central Middle School in Riverside, California.