

# Better School-to-Home Communication Starting in Middle School Will Benefit Student Academic Performance, Parents Say

96% of parents with a child in grades K-12 view parent involvement as a key factor in student achievement; 95% think achievement would improve if there was better communication between school and home

## SUMMARY

A recent independent survey of U.S. parents with a child currently in grades K-12 showed that parents are seeking ways to become more involved in their child's progress at school through the use of technology. Parents widely view their involvement as a key factor in a child's overall achievement and indicated a strong desire to be more informed about overall progress, especially grades, in order to positively impact their child's school performance. The survey revealed that middle school is a critical time for schools to give parents the opportunity to get more involved—the impact being better academic performance later on in high school. Parents see the benefits of better communication, specifically online communication, as affording a student earlier intervention to solve problems and as a motivating factor for their child to take on more responsibility with respect to the outcome of his or her academic performance.

## ADDITIONAL KEY FINDINGS

If given the opportunity, 96% of parents would like to take advantage of online access to their child's grades and homework, as well as to communicate with teachers—94% believe this would have a positive impact on student achievement.

93% of parents think their child will take more personal responsibility knowing their parents are actively involved in their schooling; 88% think their child is likely to try harder academically as a result of online access to his or her performance information.

Benefits to parents associate most with having online access to their child's school performance records:

- Improved communication to minimize surprises – 87%
- Academic improvement – 75%
- Increased student responsibility – 66%

About the Survey – The survey of 548 U.S. parents, age 30 and older, with one or more children in grades K-12, was conducted by independent online service Zoomerang. Complete survey results are available at <http://www.pearsonschools.com/survey>



A majority of parents (84%) agree that the opportunity to be involved during the high school years is very important. However, a full 99% of parents surveyed viewed the opportunity to get more involved in their child's schooling during the middle school years as a positive—that academic performance later on in high school would benefit for the following reasons:

**86%** Earlier intervention to mitigate problems

**75%** Increased achievement

**72%** Better study habits

**71%** Improved collaboration between teachers and students