

# NEWSLETTER

HAWAII STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

January 2020

Vol. 1 Issue 2

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The HFEC team would like to wish all families, educators and members of the community a very Happy New Year. Our gratitude extends to all parents, families and local educators for their continued commitment, dedication, and efforts in supporting and increasing family engagement in education.

*The Hawai'i Statewide Family Engagement Center was made possible by Grant #U310A180056 from the U.S. Department of Education. The content of this print/web product does not necessarily represent the official views of the U.S. Department of Education.*



# FAMILY FACT SHEET ON STUDENT REPORT CARDS

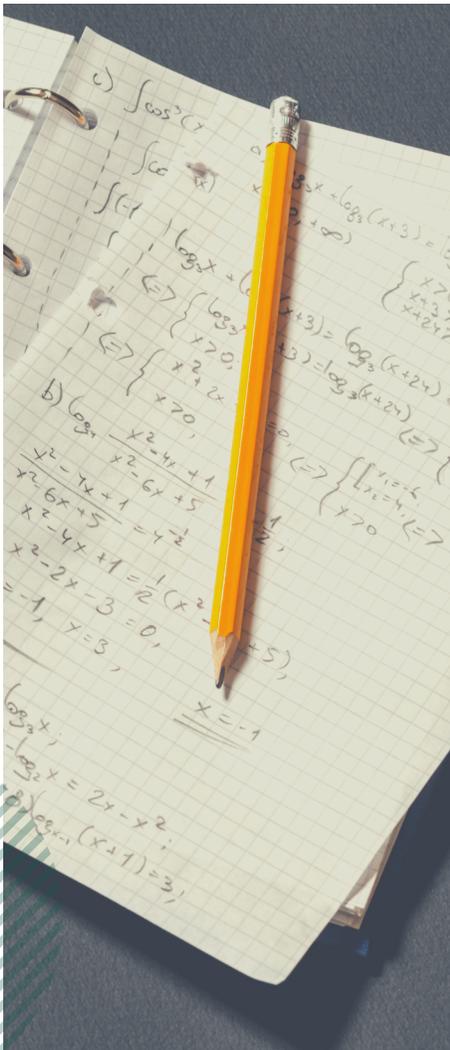
*For Elementary School Students*

Understanding student report cards will help families take an active role in their child's academic achievements. A report card is made to evaluate the student's work, progress, conduct, and is sent home to the parent/guardian for review. In Hawai'i there is a scoring system with four levels of proficiency: Advanced, Proficient, Partially Proficient, and Novice. These scores are based on the expectations of what students should know and be able to do at that grade level.

**More tips to make sure your child is making the grade:**

Understanding Report Cards

Report Card Fact Sheet



## TIPS TO HELP UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD'S REPORT CARD

1. Use the Family Fact Sheet Report Card Guide to understand the letter scoring system.
2. Praise your child for subjects where they score: Meets with Proficiency (MP) and Meets with Excellence (ME).
3. Look at the areas where your child scored: Developing Proficiency (DP) or Well Below Proficiency (WB). It is very important to talk to your child's teacher and find out which subjects and behavior areas your child may need support with.
4. Set aside time for homework and encourage good work habits for your child.
5. Get involved! Parents who are actively involved in their child's education set the best example for their child to excel.

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## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DEFINITION

Our center has adopted the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) definition of family engagement:

**Family Engagement** is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage families in meaningful ways and in which families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development. **Family Engagement** is continuous across a child's life and entails enduring commitment but changing parent roles as children mature into young adulthood.

### *How can Family Engagement make a difference?*

Effective family engagement cuts across and reinforces learning in the multiple settings where children learn- at home, in prekindergarten programs, in school, in after school programs, in faith-based institutions, and in the community. High-impact family and community engagement is collaborative, culturally competent, and focused on improving children's learning.

### *Examples of practices that are even more effective when combined:*

#### **BUILDING**

personal relationships, respect, and mutual understanding with families and educators through home visits, community walks, and class meetings.

#### **MODELING**

effective teaching practices so families can use them at home.

#### **LISTENING**

to families about their children's interests and challenges, then using this information to differentiate instruction.

#### **SHARING**

data with families about student skill levels.

#### **INCORPORATING**

content from families' home cultures into classroom lessons.

#### **ALIGNING**

family engagement activities with school improvement goals.

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## ALL ABOUT THE PARENT-MAJORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee (AC) is a parent majority committee that is also comprised of stakeholders from schools, businesses, and community organizations. The purpose of the AC is to provide a parent's perspective, guidance, and feedback on the HFEC activities. The AC will also help identify needs for family engagement and strategies that can help strengthen the partnership between families and schools in Hawai'i. To support the HFEC goal for policy, the AC will promote parent and family voices in state policies affecting students from birth through grade 12, especially related to student development and academic achievement.



To learn more about the AC committee check out their flyer. For any questions or comments for the parent-majority Advisory Committee, contact HFEC.

[AC Committee Flyer](#)

[hfec@hawaii.edu](mailto:hfec@hawaii.edu)

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# THE VALUE OF PARENT TEACHER HOME VISITS

*By: Caryl Hitchcock, PhD. Center on Disability Studies*

One of the secrets I discovered as a new teacher was that parents are powerful partners! Establishing relationships of mutual trust early in the school year was an excellent way to begin. By the time parent-teacher conference day arrived, we knew each other well and shared these core beliefs: (1) Families and teachers are equally important co-educators, (2) All families care about their children, want them to succeed, and are capable of supporting students' growth, (3) Before important academic information can be effectively shared, positive communication and trust must be established, and (4) Home visits provide a rich opportunity to build trust and cultural competence ([Karen Mapp](#)).

Perhaps "home visit" is not an accurate way to describe how these relationships came about. The visits don't have to be at home - they can be anywhere that is comfortable or convenient in the community or at school. The important point is the goal: to build a relationship of mutual trust. Parents and teachers must share these elements of relational trust: respect, competence, integrity and personal regard.

## Resources:

Home visits significantly strengthen school-family relationships, improve teaching and bolster student outcomes. Multiple research studies by Johns Hopkins University and RTI International have been completed that validate these experiences. To find out more check out these resources: (1) Parent Teacher Home Visits research, and (2) The Flamboyant Foundation Video: In this video teachers and school leaders describe home visits and the transformational effect they can have on student learning, parent satisfaction, teacher effectiveness and school culture.

Even today - some 25 years later - I still count my students' parents as friends. Building partnerships was an investment that resulted in improved learning as well as classroom behavior.

I frequently invited parents to my classroom to share their expertise in music or other skills with the students. Those visits were special days that resulted in an understanding of our common goals and the link to their children's learning. I hoped that they could see that I cared about their children as much as they did.

Here is some evidence from the evaluation research on home visits conducted by Johns Hopkins University (2015): Students whose families received a home visit (one of the core strategies) had 24% fewer absences than similar students whose families did not receive a home visit. These same students were more likely to read at or above grade level compared to similar students who did not receive a home visit.

[Parent Teacher Home Visits](#)

[Flamboyant Foundation Video](#)

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## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT WORK STARTS IN KAUA'I

On November 5, 2019 we had our first family engagement training with Kaua'i schools each school formed a team of five: administrator, parent, teacher, and key stakeholders from the school and community. Participating schools are Ele'ele Elementary, Waimea Canyon Middle, Waimea High, Kapa'a Elementary, Kapa'a Middle, and Kapa'a High. These teams will participate in Scholastic's Dr. Karen Mapp's Family Engagement Workshop 3-full day trainings throughout the school year.

Teams will learn and implement strategies for incorporating family engagement to increase learning and the well-being of all students. In addition to the training school teams will receive funding and technical assistance to create and implement their family engagement action plans. Our team is very excited to be supporting family engagement efforts on the neighbor island the next cohort of school teams will take place on Hawai'i, Big Island next year!



If you think your school will be interested to participate or have any questions regarding the HFEC partnerships with DOE schools, please contact us at [hfec@hawaii.edu](mailto:hfec@hawaii.edu) or call (808)956-4790.

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# PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT-KEIKI TO CAREER KAUA'I

**Keiki to Career Kaua'i** was established in 2012 by a group of community leaders who want to see better futures for all of Kaua'i's keiki and young adults. Their work aims to build their youth's ability to overcome adversity and to successfully navigate life's challenges so that they can lead fulfilled and purposeful lives.

Currently they are doing this work through the following initiatives:

Kaua'i Resilience Project

Career Connections

Kekaha Elementary Early  
Literacy Project

Their work has brought key stakeholders together on the island of Kaua'i to address the needs of their children by sharing the responsibility to support all keiki and youth in Kaua'i. Every other year they produce a **Kaua'i Youth Report**, which is a snapshot of Kaua'i's young people from birth to the workforce entry. This year's edition features their island youth's overall well-being. The work their organization is doing is incredible and we look forward to partnering with them to support the families on Kaua'i island.

Please check out their **10 TIPS for Building Resilience in our Young People** on how to help a child build resilience, to grow up strong, and to thrive. Thank you Keiki to Career Kaua'i for all you continue to do to ensure our children lead their lives in good health and with confidence to reach their goals.



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## REFLECTION QUESTION

Which type of **partnership style** is your school?

There are 4 versions of family-school partnerships that can help identify where the school and community are successful at, and where there may be room for improvement. A partnership school- is where all families and communities have something great to offer- and do whatever it takes to work closely together to make sure every single student succeeds! Is your school a partnership school? Use this checklist to mark the statements that are most accurate for your school, and find out which type of partnership style is most closely matched.

What are some of the benefits of the school-family partnership that you checked off? How can your school increase partnerships with community, families, and student involvement?



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# RESOURCES

## FOR FAMILIES

PTA Family Resources has a vast variety of parent and family resources provided by the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). Being engaged in your child's learning can help them do better! The PTA Center for Family Resources includes parent guides on what your child should be learning at each grade level, state assessment guides, college and career readiness materials, a special education toolkit and so much more....!

[PTA Family Resources](#)

## FOR THE COMMUNITY

The National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) is a great resource for all community members wanting to learn more about policies and practices to support Family Engagement in Education. NAFSCE is the first association focused solely on advancing family, community, and school engagement. It has a mission to advance high-impact policies and practices to promote child development and improve student achievement. Interested in getting newsletters, updates and access to resources- an individual or organization can become a member! As a member of NAFSCE, they provide resources, technical assistance and networking opportunities for HFEC collaborations to improve and advance family engagement strategies.

[NAFSCE](#)

## FOR EDUCATORS

An amazing resource for educators and families is the Global Family Research Project. This is a research project that was previously affiliated with Harvard University, and provides research and advancements in the fields of family, school, and community engagement. Check out their article on Principles of Effective Family Engagement, prepared by the Global Family Research Project. They recommend five areas that can make up the core of family engagement which are: attendance, data sharing, academic and social development, digital media, and transitions.

[Global Family Research Project](#)

[Principles of Effective FE](#)