



**Karen L. Mapp**

# Families and School Staff: A Powerful Partnership

There is growing recognition that partnerships between families and school staff are not only required to achieve educational excellence for all children, but also to improve our schools. Many states are adopting new standards for assessing teacher and school leader performance, and many of those standards require proficient practice in family and community engagement.

At the same time, teachers, who are usually responsible for building those partnerships, express a concern about the lack of preparation they receive in their pre-service programs and on the job to equip them to do the job.

Karen L. Mapp helps teachers develop their capacity to build respectful, trusting relationships with families that support children's learning. She addresses the mindset and core beliefs required to engage with families. She also provides guidance on how to plan engagement opportunities and events throughout the school year—opportunities and events that serve as building blocks for effective partnerships between families and schools.

## **Curious to learn more? Here are some links:**

[Details on Karen's essential workshop series, "Building Family Engagement Capacity at the School Level"](#)

[A Reading Rockets interview with Karen in which she discusses the encouraging research on family and community engagement](#)

["Linking Family Engagement to Learning," a short lecture by Karen, delivered at the Harvard Graduate School of Education](#)

["Born to Read," Karen's essay on the important role reading played in her childhood, from Open a World of Possible: Real Stories About the Joy and Power of Reading.](#)

## **Related Research:**

[Research Supporting Family-School Partnerships](#)



open a world of possible