

Linking Community and Academic Achievement



Why Fly That Way? Linking Community and Academic Achievement by Kathy Greeley

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2717 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 160 pages

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Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed in school. But for many students, factors outside of school can make it difficult to reach their full potential. Poverty, crime, and lack of access to quality healthcare and education can all have a negative impact on academic achievement.

Fortunately, there are things that can be done to overcome these challenges. One important factor is community involvement. Studies have shown that students who have strong connections to their communities are more likely to succeed in school. They are more likely to attend school regularly, engage in extracurricular activities, and graduate from high school and college.

There are many ways that communities can get involved in education. One important way is to provide support for students outside of school. This can include providing after-school programs, tutoring, and mentoring. Communities can also work with schools to create a safe and supportive environment for learning.

One example of a successful school-community partnership is the Harlem Children's Zone. The Harlem Children's Zone is a non-profit organization that provides a range of services to children and families in Harlem, New York. These services include after-school programs, tutoring, mentoring, and parent education.

The Harlem Children's Zone has been shown to have a positive impact on the academic achievement of students in the community. Students who participate in the program are more likely to attend school regularly, engage in extracurricular activities, and graduate from high school and college.

The Harlem Children's Zone is just one example of how communities can work with schools to create a supportive environment for learning. By providing support for students outside of school and working with schools to create a safe and supportive learning environment, communities can help to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

How Schools Can Work with Communities

There are many ways that schools can work with communities to create a supportive environment for learning. Here are a few tips:

- **Reach out to community organizations.** There are many community organizations that are already working to support children and families. Schools can partner with these organizations to provide additional services to students, such as after-school programs, tutoring, and mentoring.
- **Involve parents in their children's education.** Parents are a child's first teachers. Schools can work with parents to help them support their children's learning. This can include providing parenting classes, workshops, and other resources.
- **Create a welcoming and inclusive school environment.** All students should feel welcome and respected in school. Schools can create a welcoming environment by providing a variety of extracurricular activities, clubs, and sports teams. They can also work to ensure that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.
- **Be responsive to the needs of the community.** Schools should be responsive to the needs of the community. This means listening to the

concerns of parents and community members and working together to find solutions.

By working with communities, schools can create a supportive environment for learning that helps all students succeed.

Community involvement is essential for student success. By working together, schools and communities can create a supportive environment for learning that helps all students reach their full potential.



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