

PASS 3: Strategies that Enrich and Expand Student Learning

Overview of a Parent's Role in Expanding Student Learning Opportunities

The PASS model refers to the term "parent" as any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.

Parents bridge their child's learning at school with the learning that occurs in other settings. The PASS model provides for partnerships around student learning in school, at home, and in the community. In order to best support students, parents can learn about academic expectations, gain perspective on the purpose and benefits of measuring students' growth and achievement, influence students' learning outside of school, and share with teachers their observations of their child's learning outside of the classroom. Working together and fully committing to learning partnerships, educators and parents will have a better understanding of ways to help students build, extend, and expand the knowledge and skills that they need to succeed in school and after graduation.

Out-of-school learning supports classroom success

The New Jersey Department of Education's Partnership Academy for Student Success model (PASS 3) introduces ideas and information that educators and parents can use to build meaningful partnerships around expanding and extending student learning opportunities. The ideas serve as prompts to inspire communication opportunities in the local school community, inspire new roles for parents and educators, and introduce the concept of parent engagement in students' learning outside of school so that student's can be successful in school.

The PASS model recognizes the need to rethink and redefine the many traditions of education stakeholders and design new roles that look to the future where today's students will live and work.

Teachers	In their efforts to continue the use of current research and evidence to improve student learning and performance, teachers have designed a new role for themselves by engaging in student-centered learning rather than teacher-directed practices.
Students	Academic standards and assessments have prioritized students' engagement in demonstrating their own learning and achievement. For students, engagement in learning refers to the degree of attention, curiosity, interest, optimism, and passion that students show when they are learning. This enhances the level of motivation they have to learn and progress in their education which involves much more than simple class attendance and homework submission.
Parents	Engagement in student learning is a shift to an active role for parents, and in order to be effective, it reflects a high degree of partnership with educators. Parents can also take a lead role in guiding their child through the development of essential learning skills leading to changes in students' ability to learn and achieve. (See the PASS 3 document titled: Parent Leadership for Teaching Essential Skills of Student Achievement.)
Employers	Expectations of the global workforce continue to change. Employers need workers that think critically, possess effective communication skills, perform multiple applications with technology, and problem-solve with skill.

Extended learning in school and expanded learning outside of school can serve as critical supports for students

Children learn in multiple ways and in multiple settings -- some in school and many out of school. Technology allows students to learn 24/7 and 365 days a year. A deeper understanding of what and how students learn at school provides parents with new roles in which they can actively seek an understanding of their child's academic and performance expectations. That knowledge and key feedback to educators creates comprehensive academic partnerships designed to develop and apply strategies that support student learning. For this reason, The New Jersey Department of Education's home/school partnership model - **Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)** provides tools, support, and guidance for building strong academic partnerships between educators and families.

Educators spend about 10% of a child’s learning time delivering formal learning in school from kindergarten through high school graduation. Since educators are only with students a small portion of time, parents are the key to providing meaningful learning support for student achievement outside of school.

Learning outside of the school walls

Expanding learning opportunities beyond the classroom complement what students learn and do during the school day. In order to identify the types of experiences that will be of benefit to their child, parents can collaborate with educators to learn about academic standards, the curriculum taught by classroom teachers, state/local academic assessments, and most importantly, the individual learning needs of their child. When parents have that information, they can engage in productive new roles that strengthen student learning both inside and outside of school.

Today teaching and learning extend well beyond the school walls. Parent support for student learning, including extended and expanded learning opportunities, will evolve and become more effective as the PASS model changes the school culture so that parents are directly engaged in academic partnerships with educators. Using the PASS model to reframe parent engagement in student learning and achievement highlights a shared responsibility of parents, educators, and communities. It is continuous from birth to young adulthood and it occurs across multiple settings where children learn.

The PASS model acknowledges the shared responsibility and significant contributions, not just of educators, but also of parents and other community supports for increasing children’s success in learning and in life. These opportunities can be through the classroom, extended learning in school or expanded learning opportunities out of school where strong links are vital to students’ in-school success. All parents want their children to become intelligent, productive, ethical, successful, and caring adults, and educators share those same goals for their students. Whether in school or through other learning opportunities that complement classroom learning, the PASS model provides a new role for parents to become directly engaged in their child’s learning and for educators to utilize their expertise, use insight from parents, and adjust instruction to impact student learning and achievement.

Utilizing PASS to redefine the traditional parent role in student learning and building home/school partnerships that balance parent engagement in a variety of new roles and settings, the academic partnerships between parents and educators can develop into a deeper type of student support -- one where student learning extends and expands into the future where they will live and work.

For more detailed descriptions and examples of extended and expanded learning opportunities see the PASS 3 document titled: [Parents Can Support Student Learning Through Extended and Expanded Learning Opportunities](#).

For specific information and NJDOE resources, please use the [Out-of-School Time webpage](#) at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/21cclc/resources.htm>

*The New Jersey Department of Education’s model for home/school partnerships – **The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)** provides documents and support tools intended to complement information about the state’s academic standards and annual assessments for students. The PASS model provides resources, materials, and opportunities for parents and educators to build home/school partnerships in the best interest of students’ academic success. For information on the NJDOE PASS model go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>. Send questions to: informccss@doe.state.nj.us.*

The PASS model illustrates that parents can make a significant contribution to their child’s success in school when they are part of an authentic learning partnership with educators and share information about:

1. What and how students learn at school;
2. Expectations and ways that student learning is measured; and
3. Strategies that enrich learning outside of the classroom.

Learn more about the 2014-2015 PASS model: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>

PASS 1 - Student Learning Standards.

PASS 2 - Assessment of Student Learning and PARCC.

PASS 3 - Targeted partnership information and tools intended to generate conversations about students’ learning and strategies for use *beyond* the classroom so that they can learn and perform better *in* their classroom.