

PASS 4 - Parent Engagement in Learning, PARCC, and Student Achievement

A Five-Star Academic Communication between Home and School

Key Points for Parent/Teacher Communication about Student Learning and Assessment

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



The Family-5

A Five-Star Academic Communication between School and Home

This document is intended to help families become more informed about what and how students are learning and being assessed at school.

Parent engagement in their child's learning and assessment can be more effective through home/school partnerships such as those developed in the PASS model. Sharing information through PASS partnerships will provide parents with a powerful role in supporting their child as their learning is assessed.

Parents and teachers can be informed about the ways that students learn in class and out of school and how parents can perform informal assessments to see if and how well their child is learning. They can also find out what students should be able to do once they have learned from teachers' instruction in class, along with a justification of why students are expected to learn through state academic standards and how well they generalize and apply new knowledge and skills to real-world situations.

Teachers and parents may want to consider using the attached document as a basis for two-way communication about student expectations for assessment.

Parents may want to ask their child's teacher about talking to their child about test results. Parents can ask:

- How is my child performing according to standards/expectations?
- How well is my child performing relative to school, district, state?
- What can we do now?
- How has my child's performance changed over time?
- What can we do at home, in class, and at school to help continue building my child's knowledge and skills in areas where he or she exceeds the expectations?

Teachers may ask parents to communicate feedback on the five points spelled out in this document.

A 5-star quality academic communication is not a rating scale like a 5-star restaurant meal or hotel stay, but it is a simple five-point guide to important academic expectations for student learning and assessment. It isn't a substitute for academic discussions among teachers, parents and students, but it provides a real-time "snap shot" of learning and assessment inside the classroom.

Two key benefit of PASS partnerships between educators and parents:

- **Blending both structured and unstructured assessment data to craft an expanded understanding of student progress in school with what is observed and achieved outside of school.**
- **Taking action to utilize out-of-school instructional and assessment strategies as part of a learning plan to support student's classroom success connecting school-life to real life.**

The PASS model allows educators and parents to become partners and build learning, assessment and achievement principles into students' life habits; allows students to practice the skills necessary for thoughtful application in real life; uses informal assessment to complement other measures of student learning that shape a larger picture of a student's knowledge and ability, and provides individualized learning goals and strategies.



The Family 5: A Five-Star Academic Communication between Home and School

Teachers are committed to building *new* home/school partnerships specifically for student learning and assessment. The "Family 5" communication outlines the main concepts taught and assessed throughout the school year and contains key information about what and how students learn and how their new knowledge and skills are measured and assessed in school. Combined with other sources of information, such as report cards and tests, parents can use information from their child's teacher, written communication through "The Family 5" communication, and teacher coaching to monitor, track, benchmark and support their child's performance and progress.

With more academic information, parents can have a new role in their child's education, strengthen their partnership and communication with educators, and support their child's learning both in and out of school.

Key Topic: Parent Support for Student Learning and Assessment

Five Points that Families Should Know ...

- 1 Learning Standards - This is what students are currently expected to learn in class.
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- 2 Goal - This is how we want students to demonstrate what they have learned (Assessment expectations).
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- 3 Objective - This is how students are taught the concepts at school.
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- 4 At-home strategy to support student success and assessment outcomes - These are 2-3 ways you can support your child's learning and assessment skills at home.
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- 5 These are 2-3 types of meaningful feedback that you can share with your child and your child's teacher(s).
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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.