



Solid Foundation[®]

Student success within a strong school community.

Reading, studying, respect, responsibility



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What is Solid Foundation?

Solid Foundation is a blueprint to build a school community, engaging parents in the learning lives of their children. Reading, studying, and responsible behavior are Solid Foundation's focal points. The School Community Council tailors the Solid Foundation components to the school's particular vision and circumstances. The Academic Development Institute (ADI) provides training, consulting support, technical assistance, materials and proven techniques over a two-year period. After this period the School Community Council is well-equipped to continue and enhance the parent-engagement initiatives. ADI also documents the school's progress and provides data-rich reports to the school. Solid Foundation is designed especially for elementary and middle schools.

What are Solid Foundation's Goals?

- Every child will learn to read well, read often, and enjoy reading through a focused alliance of family support and powerful classroom instruction.
- Every child will become a self-directed learner through teaching that incorporates study skills, homework practices that build study habits, and parental guidance.
- Every child will develop a sense of responsibility and respect for self and others through consistent direction and support from the family and the school.
- The school will function as a community of its constituents—parents, students, teachers, and other school personnel.

What are Solid Foundation's Building Blocks for a School Community?

1. **Shared Leadership**—parents, teachers, and administrators together—especially where the responsibilities of the school and home overlap
2. **Goals and Roles**—working toward educational goals (standards) for all students; students, teachers, and parents all have a role to play in every child's success
3. **Policies and Practices**—based on research and promoting the idea of a learning community

4. **Communication**—an ongoing conversation, two-way communication between home and school, and among members of the school community
5. **Education**—a learning community for everyone, including parents and teachers
6. **Connections**—face-to-face association; forming common understanding; common experience
7. **Continuous Improvement**—continuous improvement through assessment of effectiveness

What are Solid Foundation's Key Components?

- **Parent Education Facilitator**—a teacher or other staff member at the school who facilitates the implementation of Solid Foundation
- **School Community Council**—The Principal, Parent Education Facilitator, counselor or social worker (or teacher), and four parents (also a parent and teacher from Pre-K program, if one is available to the school) meet regularly and follow the Solid Foundation Planning Guide
- **School Community Index and Threshold Analysis**
- **Parents & Learning Workshop** for teachers
- **Working Together for Student Success Workshop** for teachers and parents
- **School-home communication tools** for teachers
- **Reading School-Home Links** in grades K-3
- **Home Visits**
- **Courses for Parents**, taught by parents
- **Interactive Reading Workshops** for parents and teachers
- **Family Reading Nights** which include interactive reading activities
- **Family Resource Library** (materials for parents to check out a school)

Solid Foundation materials for parents are provided in English and Spanish.