

Public Abstract

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Perspectives of Parents and Educators

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this qualitative study was to gain an understanding of Hispanic parent perspectives about school involvement. The interview questions were semi-structured and open-ended to allow for the participants to share their personal recollections and add further insights to the information. Hispanic parents do not think of parental involvement in the same way as staff in school districts, in that they place a value in supporting their child emotionally, teaching life skills at home, and by showing respect. Parents take their role of instilling values and manners in their children very seriously. The challenges arise from language barriers, low English proficiency of the parents, and economic struggles such as multiple jobs and lack of transportation. Suggestions include the creation of welcome centers for parents, inviting parents to share cultural and family information, and connecting the school resources with parents.