



EIGHT THINGS EMPLOYERS CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT

Strong Family, Community and Business Support for Education

EXPECT GOOD STUDENTS TO MAKE BETTER WORKERS

1. Ask to see school transcripts when hiring young people. Demonstrate that working hard and doing well in school counts – even when it comes time to apply for an after-school or part-time job.
2. Hire kids who take tough courses such as advanced math, science, English, history, a foreign language, arts and other courses that require writing. Let the world know you respect and appreciate people who are not afraid to challenge themselves.
3. Provide bonuses or raises for students who have outstanding academic records or attendance. The extra encouragement will reinforce their motivation.

EXPECT GOOD PARENTS TO MAKE BETTER WORKERS

4. Don't make it difficult for parents to attend parent conferences and other significant school activities during the school day. Supporting your employees in this way will pay off in the long run for you, for your employees and for the country.
5. Highlight the involvement of parents and employees in your internal and external communications. Showcase your employee's participation as school volunteers, tutors, guest speakers or school-to-work facilitators.

HELP SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS EXPECT MORE

6. Help teachers and administrators understand that the ability to think, write and reason clearly - - and the ability to solve problems -- are the skills that employers seek. Make it clear how important it is to you that graduates coming into the workforce have these skills – skills that are honed and refined through tough academic courses.
7. Provide opportunities for students and their teachers to visit the workplace or get actual work experience. This will help students understand the demands that will be placed upon them one day.
8. Donate equipment, expertise or money toward helping all students achieve. Ask your local principals and teachers what they need.

(Reprinted from *Eight Things Employers Can Do to Encourage Involvement*, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)

For more resources or information, or to contact the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, log on to www.kpirc.org, or call 1-877-711-6711 (toll free). The KPIRC is a project of Kansas Families and Schools Together, Inc., (KFAST) a 501(c)(3) not for profit, whose mission is to provide resources for the benefit and support of public and community education statewide.