How do Transition programs strengthen the capacity of parents?

An evaluation of Transition programs, conducted by Dr. William Perez from Claremont College of Education, found “Transition to Middle School” and “Transition to High School” programs to have a significant impact on immigrant parents with low levels of education. The three year evaluation helped to decrease college attendance and financial aid concerns. In addition, Transition programs increased participants:

• Valuing of schooling
• College preparation confidence
• Parent/child/school communication
• College requirement knowledge

Families In Schools

The mission of Families In Schools (FIS) is to involve parents and communities in their children’s education to achieve lifelong success. To learn more about FIS, visit www.familiesinschools.org or call (213) 201-3900.

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“When educators reach out, families feel more prepared to help their children and more welcome at the school, which makes them more likely to be involved. Such engagement is associated with students’ earning higher grades.”

(Weiss, et. al., 2010).

What are Transition programs?
Families In Schools trains staff from school districts, secondary schools and community based organizations to implement “Transition to Middle School” and “Transition to High School” in their community. Through a two-day training institute, facilitators learn about the program’s goals, objectives, implementation model and how to successfully engage parents during the transition year. During the training, facilitators receive the following:

• Overview of the four lessons which cover adolescent development, academic support, college preparation, and the importance of parental involvement

• Implementation guide that includes helpful tips and information on how to replicate and sustain the program year after year

• Facilitation guide for facilitation

• Facilitator starter kit (classroom set of materials and English/Spanish workbooks)

• Program support tools including sign-in sheets, outreach flyers, PowerPoint presentations, and tracking templates

What are Transition programs?
Families dramatically influence the degree to which children are engaged in school and how they identify themselves as learners. Transition programs enable parents to gain confidence in guiding and monitoring their child’s educational and social development during the transition year to middle- and high school so the child is prepared for, and ultimately, successful after high school. “Transition to Middle School” and “Transition to High School” provide interactive lesson about the importance of education, adolescent social development, academic success strategies and college preparation.

Why a program during 6th and 9th grade?
Effective family engagement during a child’s transition from elementary to secondary school needs to focus on communicating parental expectations about education and its value, linking schoolwork to current events, fostering educational and occupational aspirations, discussing learning strategies with children, and making preparations and plans for the future.

How to Start A Program
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TRANSITIONS CURRICULA
The curricula consist of lessons that are easy to read, use and implement while remaining culturally relevant and interactive. This approach engages parents at a personal level and builds the confidence parents need to be their child’s advocate.

Transition to Middle School Lessons:
Lesson 1 – Transition to Middle School Introduction: The Importance of Parent Involvement
Lesson 2 – Adolescent Development: Strategies for Supporting Your Child
Lesson 3 – Succeeding Academically: Tools and Knowledge for Academic Success
Lesson 4 – Preparing for College: Starting the College Talk

Transition to High School Lessons:
Lesson 1 – Transition to High School Introduction: The Importance of Parent Involvement
Lesson 2 – Adolescent Development: Supporting Children through Critical Stages
Lesson 3 – Succeeding Academically: The Path to Academic Success
Lesson 4 – Preparing for College: Creating a Pathway to College