

Parental Involvement in U.S. Public Schools in 2017-18

DATA POINT
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This Data Point examines parent and/or guardian involvement in various school-based engagement opportunities before the coronavirus pandemic. This information was reported by U.S. public school principals on the principal survey of the 2017-18 National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS). The NTPS is a sample survey of public and private K-12 schools, principals, and teachers that can be used to make comparisons between the 50 states and the District of Columbia. State representative information is also available for public schools, principals, and teachers.

In the 2017-18 NTPS, public school principals reviewed a list of nine different parent engagement opportunities. They then stated which of those activities were offered by their schools during the previous school year (2016-17).

Does the number of parent engagement opportunities offered vary by school level?

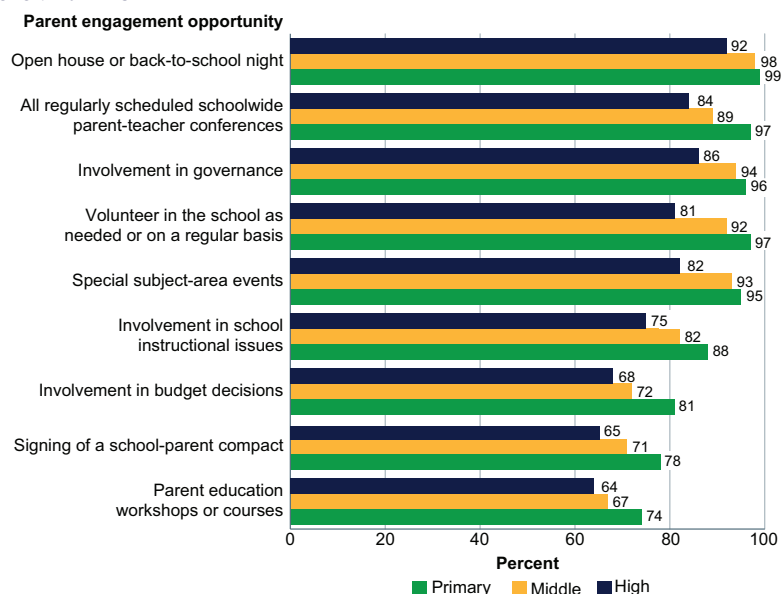
The percent of principals who reported offering any of the nine parent engagement opportunities varied by event and school level.

Primary school principals reported that these nine options were available at higher rates than middle or high school principals (**FIGURE 1**).

The nine parent engagement opportunities and the percentage of public school principals who said the activity was offered by their schools are

- open house or back-to-school nights (97 percent);
- all regularly scheduled school wide parent-teacher conferences (92 percent);
- involvement in governance¹ (92 percent);
- volunteer in the school as needed or on a regular basis (91 percent);
- special subject-area events² (90 percent);
- involvement in school instructional issues³ (83 percent);
- involvement in budget decisions (76 percent);
- signing of a school-parent compact⁴ (73 percent); and
- parent education workshops or courses (69 percent).

FIGURE 1. Percentage of public school principals in schools that offered various opportunities for parent participation, by opportunity type and school level: 2017-18



NOTE: Data for combined schools, defined as schools which offer instruction at both the elementary and secondary levels, are excluded from this figure, but can be seen in the associated tables at https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718_20102001_a1n.asp and https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718_20102002_a1n.asp.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), "Public School Principal Data File," 2017-18.

Does parent attendance at different engagement opportunities vary by school level?

For any of the nine activities offered by their school during the previous school year (2016-17), principals gave the percentage of students who had at least one parent present. Low parent participation meant 0-25 percent of all students had a parent present. High parent participation meant 76-100 percent of all students had a parent present.

For 7 out of the 9 options, primary school principals reported high

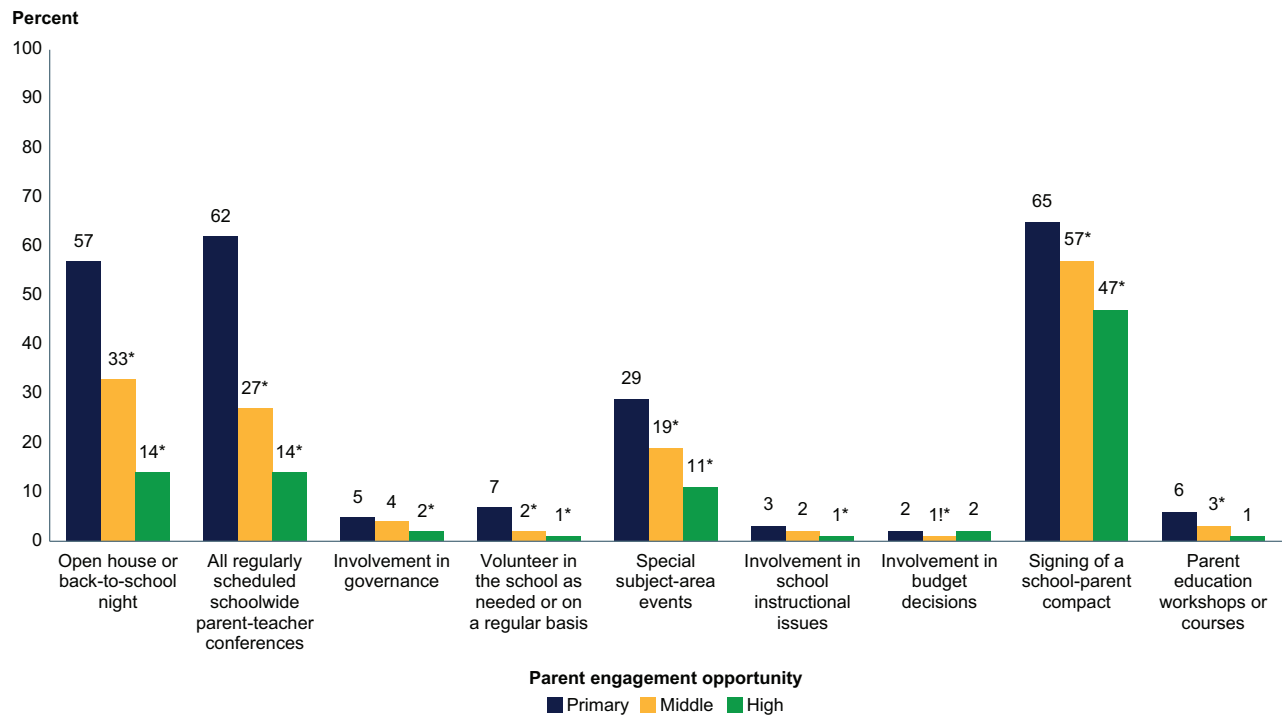
parent participation at higher rates than did middle school principals. There were no significant differences for two events. These two events were involvement in school instructional issues and involvement in governance (FIGURE 2).

Primary school principals also reported high parent participation at higher rates in 8 out of the 9 principals. There were no significant differences for one option (involvement in budget decisions).

Endnotes:

- ¹ Involvement in governance includes PTA or PTO meetings, school board, and parent booster clubs.
- ² Special subject-area events include events such as science fairs and concerts.
- ³ Involvement in school instructional issues includes planning classroom learning activities and providing feedback on curriculum.
- ⁴ A school-parent compact is an agreement between school community members (e.g., parents, principals, teachers, and students) that acknowledges the shared responsibility for students learning and/or the school's policies.

FIGURE 2. Among public school principals in schools that offered each opportunity, percentage of principals who reported that 76-100 percent of students had at least one parent or guardian participating, by opportunity type and school level: 2017-18



* Indicates significant difference between primary schools and middle schools or primary schools and high schools at the $p < .05$ level. Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 percent and 50 percent (i.e., the standard error is at least 30 percent and less than 50 percent of the estimate).
 NOTE: Detail may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Principals could indicate 76-100 percent attendance at more than one engagement opportunity. Data for combined schools are not shown here, but can be seen in the associated tables at https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718_20102001_a1n.asp and https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ntps/tables/ntps1718_20102002_a1n.asp.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), "Public School Principal Data File," 2017-18.