

Home Visits Toolbox

Equip your school teams with the resources and tools that they need to initiate. (or rethink) a home visit program and authentically connect with caregivers

Overview:

For years, research has shown that families are essential to student and school success. It seems simple – so why do schools have a hard time with effective family engagement?

Experts agree that there's more to family involvement than bake sales and back to school night. Effective family engagement builds relationships and capacity, and is linked to student learning.

Yet, even schools that understand the importance of families run into complex barriers that get in the way of partnership:

- Everyone is short on money and time.
- There may be a historic lack of trust and communication between the school and the community.
- Cultural and socioeconomic differences, expectations and unconscious assumptions may get in the way of well-meaning adults working together effectively.

The Parent Teacher Home Visit (PTHV) model was developed by parents and teachers based upon community organizing principles of empowerment. Home visits have a protocol which helps educators and families overcome the barriers listed above, and build trust, communication and common goals.

Home Visits Resources:

The following resources were developed and curated by the [Parent Teacher Home Visits \(PTHV\)](#) Program, an organization specializing in research and training for home visit programs.

- [1-Page Intro to PTHV](#)
- [Prepare for Home Visits](#)
- [Home Visit Planning Tool](#)
- [Sample Letter to Families from Teacher \(English, Spanish, Somali\)](#)
- [Intro Flyer for Families](#)
- [Visit Log](#)
- [PTHV as a Tier 1 Attendance Strategy](#)
- [Evaluate Your Home Visit Program](#)

Virtual Home Visit Guidelines:

As districts and schools build new systems to safely educate students and support families, the foundation for success remains the same – authentic relationships.

Virtual home visits help teachers and staff establish trusting relationships with students and families, even when they cannot meet face-to-face. Use these guidelines to empower educators with the resources and tools they need to implement a virtual home visit program.

What is a Virtual Home Visit?

- A proactive, intentional re-engagement of families
- A scheduled video call between a teacher and a student’s family, from the teacher’s home to the family’s home (duration varies, but expect 20-30 minutes)
- Takes place during the first grading period of the school year, with recommended follow-up at least once per semester (as dictated by the support and information needs of the student and family)

The Virtual Home Visit Process

- Teacher, school, or school district chooses the platform for video calls (with ease of use for families as a key consideration)
- Teacher invites each of their assigned families to a Virtual Home Visit
- Homeroom or advisory roster could be used for teachers with more than one class of students
- Teacher sends confirmation to scheduled families, including call date/time and details of how to connect
- Teacher tracks Virtual Home Visits conducted and those still to be conducted/scheduled

The Payoff of Virtual Home Visits

- Proactive communication demonstrates care and puts teachers and families on the same team
- Face-to-face (even video) visits build connection, empathy, and trust
- Teachers and families learn about one another, leading to true partnerships to benefit students

For more information on how to implement a virtual home visit program, download [this guide from Stand for Children](#).

About the Parent Teacher Home Visits Program. PTHV increases student and school success by building and sustaining a national network of partners who effectively implement and advance our relationship-based home-visit model of family and teacher engagement in public schools across the United States.