

## Social and Emotional Learning and School-Family-Community Partnerships

The success of social and emotional learning depends not only upon a strong schoolwide implementation but also upon the active engagement of families and community members. The Lions Quest programs have the benefit of being supported by local Lions Clubs that can offer ongoing human and financial support for program implementation, materials, and training. Schools benefit from partnering with families and community members and organizations so that opportunities for skill development are continuously available in the two settings where students spend most of their lives.

Research shows that three types of school-family partnership activities can be helpful in engaging families actively in the SEL efforts of the school:

- two-way school-home communication;
- family involvement at home;
- family involvement at school.<sup>30</sup>

Lions Quest programs engage families in the following ways:

- Family Connection activities accompany each lesson and provide opportunities for families and students to learn and practice the social and emotional competencies together in fun family contexts and to communicate their learning to the facilitator.
- The Families as Partners guide is designed to help facilitators involve families.
- Parent meetings bring together to learn about social and emotional learning and how to reinforce it at home.
- Families and community members are invited to participate as classroom resources, members of the School Climate Team or Committee or SEL leadership team, adult chaperons for service-learning projects, and facilitators of Parent Meetings and other schoolwide events that support the Lions Quest programs.
- Parents and community members are invited to participate in program training and professional learning sessions.
- Engaging the family, community members and organizations, and Lions Clubs creates a school-community culture of mutual learning, inclusion, and respect.

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