

The Relationship between Student-Led Parent Conferences and Parental Conference Participation and Student Motivation and Achievement

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Overview

When compared with students coming from higher-SES backgrounds, students coming from lower-SES backgrounds tend to have:

- Lower levels of parental involvement in their school activities
- Lower academic achievement and motivation towards school

Student-led parent conferences have been shown to:

- Increase parental involvement in school

Parental Involvement has been shown to:

- Increase student achievement and motivation

Research Question: Will implementing student-led parent conferences increase parent involvement and student achievement and/or motivation in a high-poverty school?

Method

After beginning of the year testing, students and parents in two fifth grade classes completed surveys based on scholar motivation and effort towards school. Students also collected work samples and created goals to share during their conferences. Throughout the year, students have continued to create goals for Reading and Writing academics. At the end of the year, the students and parents will again be asked to complete conferences and surveys to determine if motivation has increased. Summative assessments will also be given to determine if there has been growth in academic achievement.

Student Motivation Survey					
Students, complete this survey about yourself as truthful as possible. Take your time! You will rate all of the statements on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the least truthful and 5 being the most truthful.					
I am very well organized.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I have good work and study habits.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I feel I am doing my best at school.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I don't let my friends distract me from doing my work.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I always do my homework without my parents or teachers having to remind me.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I like to put a lot of effort into my work.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I wake up in the morning feeling ready to go to school.					
1	2	3	4	5	

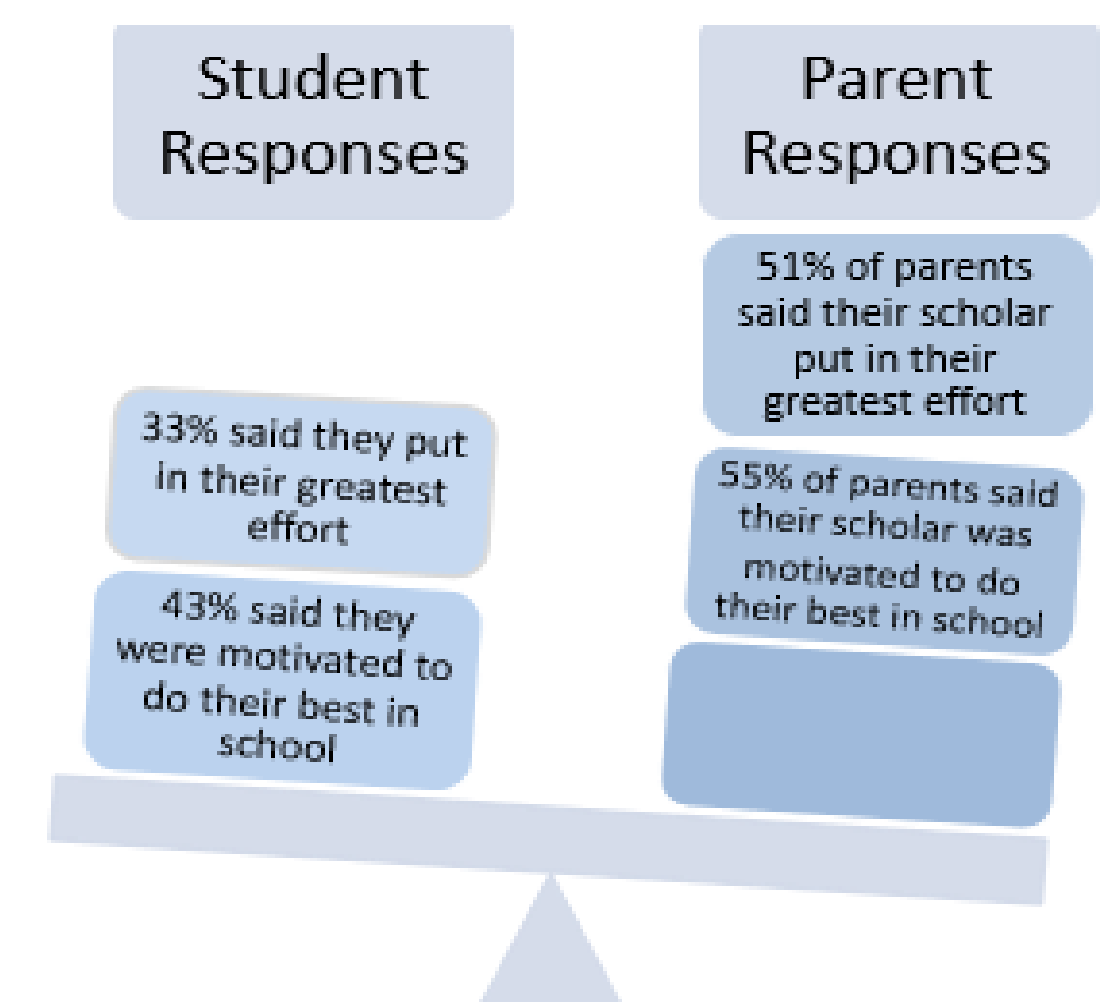
I don't complain about school.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I have a positive attitude about school.					
1	2	3	4	5	
I am on my best behavior at school.					
1	2	3	4	5	

Answer these questions below:

1. What is your favorite subject in school? Why is it your favorite?
2. What is your least favorite subject in school? Why is it your least favorite?
3. What subject do you do the best in? Why do you think that is?
4. What subject do you do poorly in? Why do you think that is?

Key Findings

- Parents overestimated the amount of motivation and effort their scholars put into school each day, according to the beginning of the year survey completed by both parents and students.



Parent Conferences	
2014-2015	16
2015-2016	67

- Parent conferences have increased by over 400% compared to last year.

Student Proficiency 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 Benchmarks



Student Academic Growth from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016 on STAR Reading



- Compared to last year, scholars involved in student led conferences with goal setting, have shown greater proficiency in summative Reading assessments.

Impact

Schools with scholars from lower-SES backgrounds could use student led conferences to increase parental involvement. Increased parental involvement may then instill greater motivation within scholars to increase academic achievement.

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