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**For: School Boards, Superintendents, School Administrators, and All Other Concerned Stakeholders who are struggling to make schools better**

### **School-Community Collaboration: What's Going Wrong?**

Schools and the community in which they reside deal with multiple, interrelated concerns – poverty, child development, literacy, violence, safety, substance abuse, housing, employment. School and neighborhood improvements are mutually enhanced through effective school-community collaboration.

Interest in connecting school and community resources is growing at an exponential rate. The goal is to maximize mutual benefits, including better student progress, positive socialization of the young, higher staff morale, improved use of resources, an enhanced sense of community, community development, and more. In the long run, the aims are to strengthen students, schools, families, and neighborhoods.

But too many efforts to substantively connect school and community have ended in frustration and disappointment because of the tendency to approach this complex matter simplistically.

See a recent discussion of what is involved in developing an effective school-community collaboration in Chapter 14 of *Improving School improvement* which can be freely accessed at [http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving\\_school\\_improvement.html](http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/improving_school_improvement.html)

Please share with relevant stakeholders.

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