

Working Together To a Successful Schoolcareer

School-Family Partnerships at Secondary and Intermediate Vocational Education

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Samen werken aan schoolsucces
School en ouders in het vo en mbo

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Parental involvement in their children's school careers and cooperation between school and parents contribute to students' success at school. This raises the question how schools put this into effect and how a balance is ensured between the increasing responsibility of the students and the continuing support of their parents? *Working Together To a Successful schoolcareer* is the first book to address this topic specifically at the secondary and intermediate vocational school level. It presents a comprehensive approach and is written for teachers' training and social studies and for secondary and intermediate vocational schools.

Part A of *Working To a Successful Schoolcareer* discusses what can be learned from recent research and describes the daily practice at secondary and intermediate vocational schools. From this theoretical framework (i.e. the 'why') to ten factors for success to improve school-family partnerships were derived, which have been tested in practice. Part B gives numerous helpful hints for designing this cooperation in the form of interventions in actual practice such as introductory conversations or interactive homework, i.e. the 'how'.

About the authors

Mariëtte Lusse supervises research on the theme of parents at Hogeschool Rotterdam. She got her PhD with the study this book is based upon. Annette Diender is a consultant and works with secondary and intermediate vocational schools and school boards to improve the contact with parents. She was involved in the testing of this approach.

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Factors for success to improve the cooperation between parents and school

Factors for success to make CONTACT between school and parents	
1	School makes sure parents feel welcome.
2	School becomes acquainted with all parents at an early stage.
3	School has contact with a parent or another carer of the child.
Factors for success to COOPERATE between school, parents and pupils	
4	School always invites pupil to attend regular contact moments with their parent.
5	School makes sure there is dialogue and an exchange of information with parents.
6	School feeds the conversation between parent and child at home.
7	School (also) pays attention to positive things.
Factors for success to support the CAREER PERSPECTIVE of the pupil	
8	School takes pupil's school career as a focal point in its contact with parents.
9	School initiates a plan focused on points of development for the pupil clearly indicating the roles of the pupil, parent and school.
10	School discusses disappointments regarding school career with parent and child.