

Research and Evaluation of Family Involvement in Education: What Lies Ahead

Heather Weiss, Chair

Joyce Epstein, Anne Henderson, Kathleen Hoover-
Dempsey, William Jeynes

Panelists

AERA Annual Meeting

April 14, 2005



The Family Involvement Network of Educators

www.finenetwork.org



Harvard Family Research Project

Criteria for Priority Evaluation Areas

- Potential impact on children
- Potential to bring knowledge to practice
- Grounding in solid research-based theory
- Interventions carried out under different venues
- Interventions for families with children of different ages
- Interventions demonstrably ready for evaluation



Key Features of Evaluations

- Interdisciplinary theories
- Multiple methods
- Longitudinal research
- Examination of subtle aspects of parent involvement



Initial Priority Areas for Investigation

- Factors motivating parents' decisions to become involved, how involvement influences outcomes, and how to help schools encourage involvement
- Home–school communication and parental expectations for children's academic success
- School-based programs of school, family, and community partnership and the roles of districts and states in guiding these programs
- Community organizing as a means of involving low-income and ethnically diverse parents and community members in improving low-performing schools and in children's learning and development

