Epstein's Six Types of Parent Involvement

Dr. Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University has developed a framework for defining six different types of parent involvement. This framework assists educators in developing school and family partnership programs.

Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement

1. **Parenting**: Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.
   - Parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy).
   - Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services.
   - Home visits at transition points to elementary, middle, and high school.

2. **Communicating**: Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress.
   - Conferences with every parent at least once a year.
   - Language translators to assist families as needed.
   - Regular schedule of useful notices, memos, phone calls, newsletters, and other communications.

3. **Volunteering**: Recruit and organize parent help and support.
   - School/classroom volunteer program to help teachers, administrators, students, and other parents.
   - Parent room or family center for volunteer work, meetings, and resources for families.
   - Annual postcard survey to identify all available talents, times, and locations of volunteers.

4. **Learning at home**: Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.
   - Information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade.
   - Information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home.