



# Community-Based Engagement:

## Working With Diverse Families and Students With Disabilities in Urban Settings



### Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE) Mission

HUNE empowers and supports parents of children and youth with exceptionalities in obtaining a quality public education, so that the students will lead rich, active lives and attain future success.

One of HUNE's core objectives is to support youth in the process of meeting their full potential, while building networks with families, school, and community.

Collaboration between families, school, and community is developed and fostered using the following strategies:

- Monthly family meetings
  - Provide updated youth information to caregivers
  - Offer parenting workshops to foster positive relationships between families and their children
  - Build family relationships through youth-centered activities in which families can participate
  - Invite professionals to share information on topics suggested by families
- Youth engagement in the community
  - Volunteer in community agencies, schools, and businesses that match students' interests

- Participate in student apprenticeship programs
- Mentor in daycare centers, preschool programs, neighborhood elementary schools (primary grades)
- Maintain a partnership with Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVR)
- Participate in travel training
- Participate in community events, such as Neighborhood Clean-up and Recycling Day and El Día de los Niños
- Collaboration between school and youth program
  - Work with schools on academic issues (e.g., extra homework help, problem-solving strategies, and behavior management)
  - Partner with the schools on a variety of individualized emerging situations
  - Attend school meetings, such as interagency meetings and Individualized Education Program meetings
  - Share updated information about the academic and behavioral performance of students participating in HUNE Youth Programs
  - Build positive relationships with teachers, counselors, and other stakeholders, who are working with HUNE Youth Program students

**High school graduates are positive role models! Whether someone wants to be a positive role model for society in general, or a role model to his or her younger siblings and younger cousins or a child, obtaining a high school diploma is an honored achievement!**



Completion for All Pennsylvania Students

**Do you know a student who is considering dropping out of school?**

**We can help!  
(215) 425-6203**

## Resources for Families

- HUNE, [www.huneinc.org](http://www.huneinc.org)
- PaTTAN, Increasing Graduation Rates and Decreasing Dropout Rates Initiative, [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)
- PaTTAN, Parental Engagement Initiative, [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)
- PaTTAN, Parent Publications for Parents, [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)
- PYLN, Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network, [www.pyln.org](http://www.pyln.org)
- The PEAL Center, [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)
- Parents Magazine, The Power of Parents, February 2015, [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)
- Mission Empower, [www.missionempower.org](http://www.missionempower.org)
- Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania, [www.parenttoparent.org](http://www.parenttoparent.org)
- Pennsylvania's State Task Force, [www.pattan.net/category/About/Partners/Single/?id=12](http://www.pattan.net/category/About/Partners/Single/?id=12)
- The Pennsylvania Resource and Information Center, [www.center-school.org/pa-pirc/](http://www.center-school.org/pa-pirc/)
- U.S. Department of Education: Family and Community Webpage, [www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement](http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement)
- PACER Center, [www.pacer.org/](http://www.pacer.org/)
- BRYCS - Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services. Refugee and Immigrant Family and Community Engagement in the Schools Online training modules, [www.brycs.org](http://www.brycs.org)
- LEA to LEA Family Engagement Webinar Series, [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

## Family Feedback

"Yuliana likes the program. The program has helped her to get integrated. She is less shy and is open to socializing. She gets a lot of homework help. She gives the program five stars. Yuliana has had new experiences. She is really happy about the youth program."

– Yuliana's Mother

"He likes the program because he can socialize with other students of his age. He gets a lot of homework help. Also, he has developed as a person."

– Jose's Mother

"My son does homework in the program. He likes the program a lot because people are nice in the program. He is a little bit nicer to others now that he is in the program. He likes the way he is treated in the program."

– Henry's Mother