

# ACCOUNTABILITY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

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## Hold everyone involved accountable for students' success, including parents, teachers, elected officials, and students themselves.

- ▶ In these changing times, providing every child with a **world-class education** requires more from all of us. Teaching and learning can't just occur in the classroom.
- ▶ We need **effective partnerships** that hold all stakeholders accountable: teachers, parents, students, schools, communities, and elected officials.
  - **Teachers** are deeply committed to the success of every child.
  - **Parents** are a child's first teachers. They must ensure that their children come to school ready to learn by teaching them values like responsibility and respect for others, and by instilling in them a love for learning.
  - **Students** must be motivated to work hard and achieve their full potential.
  - **Schools** must be accountable to taxpayers.
  - **Communities** must engage and support their neighborhood schools.
  - **Elected officials** must provide schools with the tools and resources they need to succeed.
- ▶ It is widely assumed that parental involvement is important to student success. Research confirms it. **Parent, family, and community involvement correlate with better academic performance and school improvement** — specifically, higher grades, better attendance, lower dropout rates, aspiring to higher education, and enrolling in college. Moreover, this holds true at the elementary and the secondary level for students of all races, regardless of the parents' education, income or background. (Source: Annenberg Institute for School Reform, [Organized Communities, Stronger Schools](#), 2008)
- ▶ Through the **Priority Schools Campaign**, NEA is striving to transform struggling schools — especially the bottom five percent eligible for U.S. Department of Education School Improvement Grants — in collaboration with parents, students, community groups, and other stakeholders. This initiative is the product of a mandate from our annual Representative Assembly, attended by more than 9,000 educators from all across America.