

# Title

How to identify risk factors for educational stagnation and formulate an action plan for student success

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**Parent Conference 2022**  
*Reconnect & Renew*

# Introduction

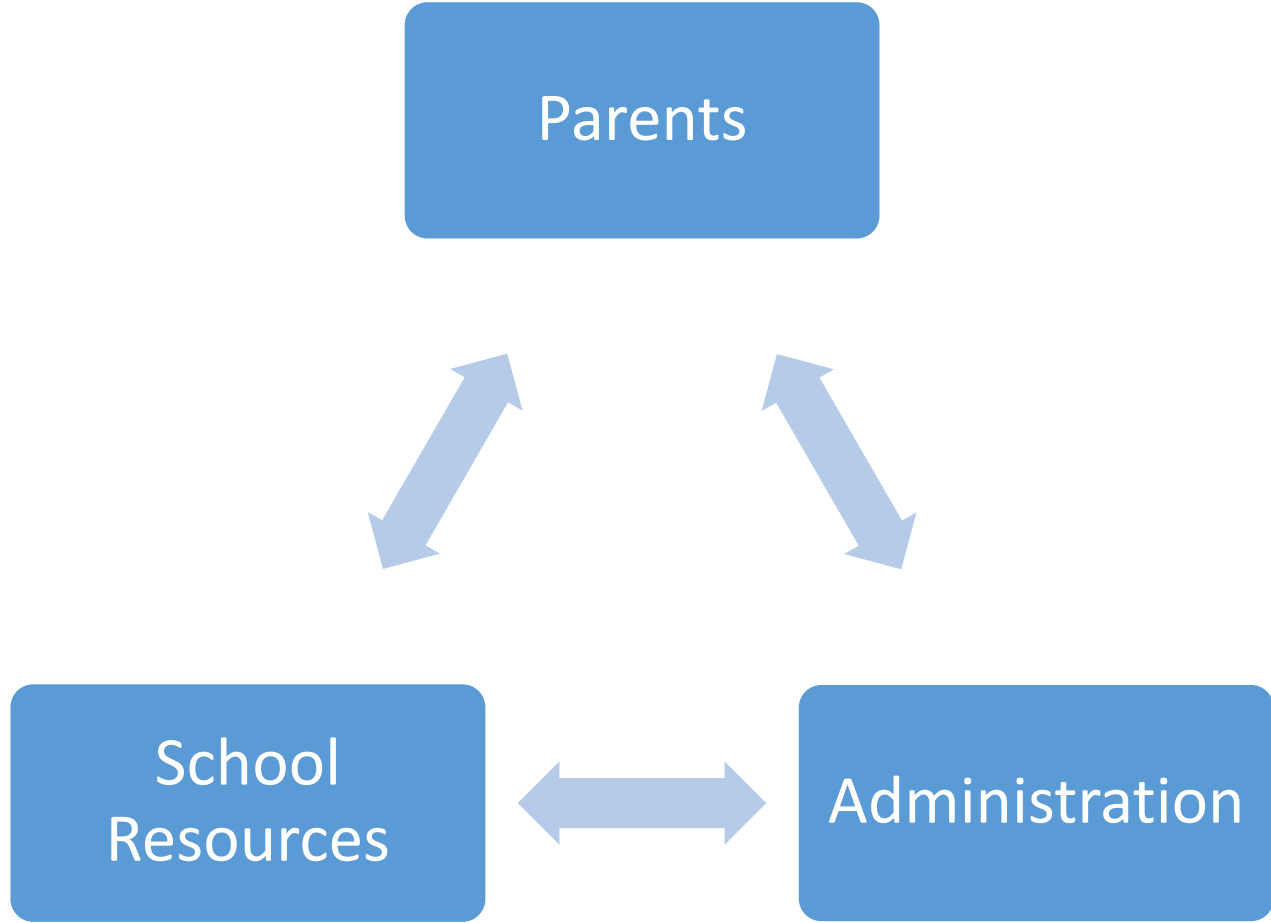
- **Welcome**
- **This session will cover the following 4 areas:**
  - **1. Highlight the important roles that parents play in the education alliance ( i.e. student-teacher-administration-community)**
  - **2. Defining educational stagnation: diverse student needs but unfortunate same outcome.**
  - **3. Identifying common risk factors for racialized black students**
  - **4. Learning how to formulate an action plan for your child who is struggling**



# Important Roles that Parents Play in the Education Alliance

- **An Education Alliance can be defined as the coordinated interventions and relationships between the student, concerned parent, teachers and school administration in resolving the immediate and long-term barriers to student success.**
- **The role of an active and engaged parent is to not only establish an Education Alliance with the student, supportive teachers and school administration but also to become aware of the school resources that are beneficial for their child.**
- **As a parent you will have to learn about the struggles of the student (child) at school, in the community and even in the home which are directly and indirectly impacting their academic focus, personal well-being ( self-esteem and motivation) and problem solving and goal setting skills.**

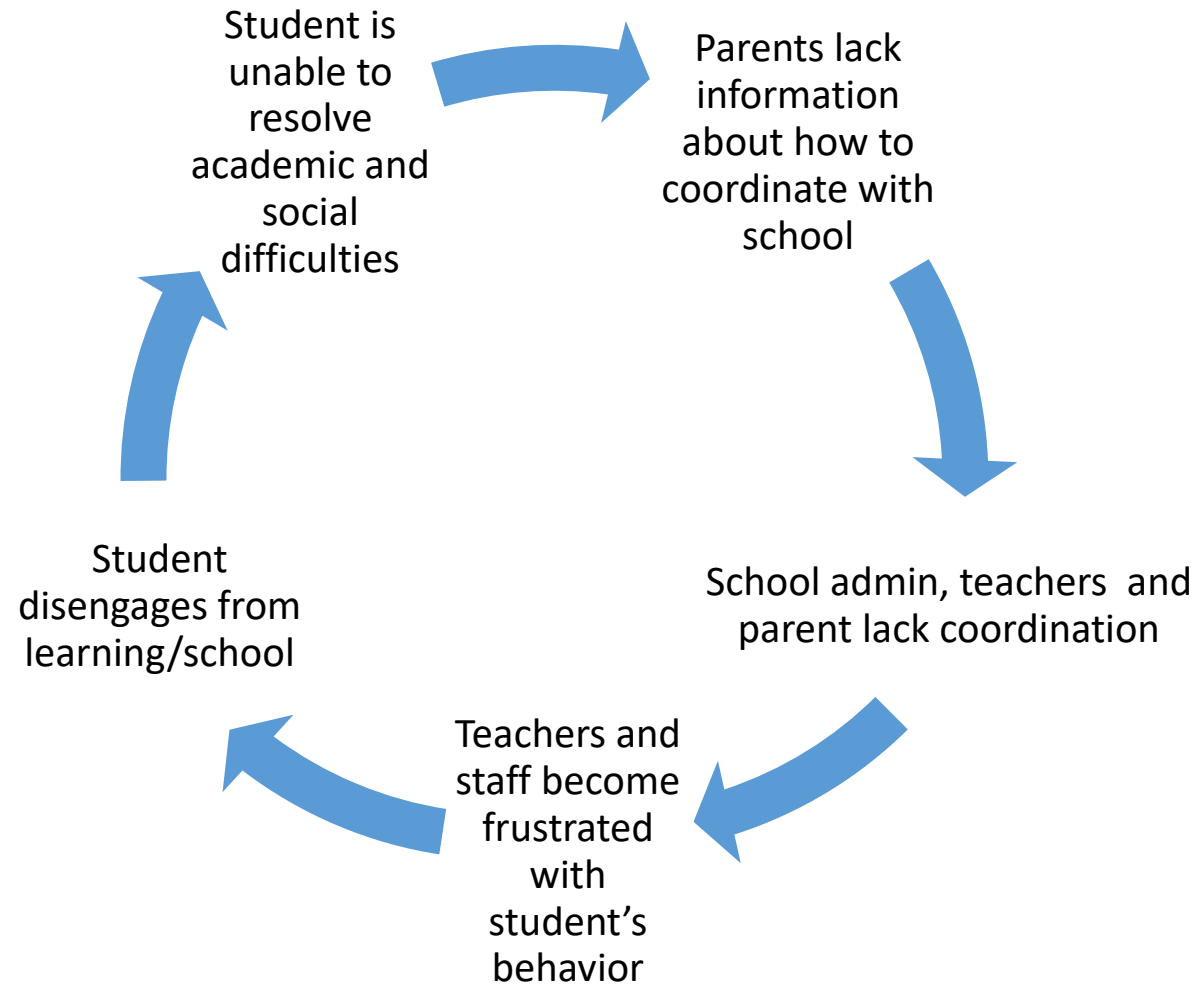
# Education Alliance



# Barriers to an Education Alliance

- From my experience common barriers to establishing an **effective Education Alliance** often revolve around a parent not being well informed of their roles and that of teachers and the school administration.
- Often the parent may assume that the school ( teachers and administration) will be solely responsible for resolving the academic and learning barriers of their child. In my opinion, this assumption on the part of parents is a very dangerous one.
- While the role and responsibility of teachers and the school administration is to ensure student success and well-being for all students at school, at the same time, their efforts will not be successful without the involvement of the student's parent. **No one can love your child more than you or want as much success for them as you!**
- Parents may feel alienated and confused about school procedures; there may be language and cultural barriers and even time availability since many parents are working two or more jobs.

# Barriers to Education Alliance



# Educational Stagnation: What is going on?

- Educational stagnation can be defined as a student not progressing in their learning, grade level and skills acquisition.
- Educational Stagnation is usually the cause for students dropping out of school, disengaging from the learning process, forming anti-social attitudes and values and ultimately, getting into a cycle of school suspensions, behavioural outbursts and potentially involvement in delinquent/criminal behaviour outside of the home.
- Indicators of educational stagnation are low credit accumulation and lack of regular school attendance.
- Educational stagnation can occur at any grade level but the most critical grades from my experience are Gr.6, 7, 8 and 9. These grades roughly correspond to the transition in schooling from primary/junior, intermediate and secondary school. Students are also trying to find their status and place in the world at this time. Failure to identify and intervene to help students out of their educational stagnation will lead to adverse long-term impacts.



# Common Risk Factors for Educational Stagnation for racialized black learners

- Student often feels angry and confused at school and in the home
- Student often complains at home about the fast pace of course work, difficult and confusing learning materials and not being helped at school
- Student begins to act out their frustration and confusion ( Behavioural issues) at home and at school. Frequent verbal fights with parents and teachers. Student feels they are being targeted.
- Student fails to submit assignments and school work
- Students does not attend school regularly ( even if parent drops them off in the morning). School avoidance begins at this stage.
- Student voices a growing dislike for all teachers, school and questions home rules and the merit of education itself ( example, “ Why do I need school anyway?”, “ Why are your pushing me to go to school when they don’t want me there anyway!”, “ You can’t force me to go to school!”)



# Formulating an Action Plan

- **1<sup>st</sup> Step Identify** what are the problems/barriers to success according to the student
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Identify** what are the problems/barriers according to teachers and the school administration
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Ask the student-child** what are possible solutions ( they may reflexively say “ I don’t know”) on overcoming these barriers. Through a collaborative confidence building model, the student-child can be empowered to come up with workable solutions to their problems. This may require the parents and adults “Listening” rather than “ Being listened to”.
- **4<sup>th</sup> meet with the teachers and school administration** how they can provide the resources and support to establish an Education Alliance- a collaborative intervention involving the student, parent, teachers and school administration
- **5<sup>th</sup> Have weekly, monthly and even daily follow-up conversations** about the intervention and desired goals/outcomes between all parties in the education alliance.

# Questions/Open Discussion

Do you feel this presentation was helpful? Why or Why not?