

# Vast Majority of U.S. Parents Agree: Student Achievement Improves with Better Communication Between Schools and Parents

*Offering parents online access to grades, homework and attendance information seen as a convenient way for schools to boost academic achievement*

April 2006 – PowerSchool, a division of Apple, commissioned an independent nationwide survey of more than 1,550 parents with one child or more in grades K-12. The survey determined the current level of communication parents have with their child's school and whether or not the frequency and manner of that communication could be improved. The survey also gauged parental attitude on the impact communication has on overall student achievement.

## U.S. Parents Link Involvement with Achievement Communication between Schools and Parents seen as key to Student Achievement



**99%** The results reveal near unanimous, or 99%, agreement among parents that regular communication between parents and schools is either very important (86%) or important (13%). However, most tellingly for today's educators, is the conviction among nearly all of the parents surveyed, 99%, who agree (24%) or agree strongly (75%) that student achievement would improve if current communication methods were made better.

**94%** Convenience is a key factor to increasing parent involvement throughout grades K-12. The vast majority of parents (94%) indicated a desire to become more involved in their child's progress in school by using the Internet to access their child's academic information and to communicate with teachers. Within this same group of parents, 93% felt that this opportunity would positively affect their child's overall academic performance.

**34%** School administrators have an opportunity to tap into this parent enthusiasm – only 34% of parents have online access to their child's academic information today.

**85%** By giving parents access to pertinent student information more regularly, the typical parent/teacher conferences can become more student-centered with time spent on mapping out strategies for academic progress instead of reviewing grades. 85% of those surveyed would welcome more frequent updates from their child's school monthly (38%), weekly (25%), or anytime (22%).

**52%** And with nearly half of all parents claiming surprise at some point by a grade on their child's report card, it comes as little surprise that 52% of all parents are most interested in keeping current with grades, followed by the status of homework assignments (23%).

**85%** Yet for students, having mom and dad virtually on the same page with their teachers may not be as troublesome as one might think: 85% of parents believe their children are appreciative of their involvement in their education.

