Teachers as a resource and factors in the students’ environment outside of school (family circumstances, community environments, health and economic conditions) that may influence students’ life and learning.

Students should review the following factors that affect students’ lives and learning outside of school.

- Population changes, including more diversity in regard to minorities, continuing shift in living from rural to urban areas, and a population that is an average older age.
- Family trends, including fewer traditional families, higher divorce and more “blended” families, single-adoptive families, and more grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Influence of family on school success, including family social and economic background is related to a child’s school success, (2) schools and teachers can help learners overcome social and economic shortcomings, (3) some children with social or economic shortcomings but with a strong family culture are academically successful, and (4) school success related to family makeup.

Teachers and schools can be a resource to assist parents to enhance students’ school success.

- Parents need to be made aware of how influential they can be.
- Parents need to know how to make the home conducive to learning.

Teachers need to...
- assume that all students are motivated to learn; even they do not seem to be.
- provide truly effective instruction, and make learning interesting and worthwhile.
- encourage students.
- teach specific knowledge and skills that will help students do well on important tests.
- provide students with all kinds of support, human and material, since they do not have adequate educational resources and learning experiences outside school.
- be persistent in expecting that students learn and try multiple ways to teach them.
- be tolerant and avoid being judgmental.
- teach appropriate behavior rather than using punishment.
- teach gently and use and promote kindness.

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-provide a safe environment for learning.

Helpful Resources:
National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) Website:
www.nccp.org  <http://www.nccp.org/>
Cruickshank, D, Jenkins, D, and Metcalf, K. (2006) New York:  
McGraw-Hill
Supervision and Curriculum Development