



# Parents as Advocates: Supporting K-12 Students and their Families Across Identities

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COLLECTION  
Education Studies

EDITION  
1st edition

MARKET  
College/higher education  
and Professional and  
scholarly

## This course reading...

- Explores how social identities can impact the relationships between students, their teachers, and their families, and their goals for educational success
- Considers how social identities – such as gender, race, ability and disability, and socioeconomic status – might impact how parents, carers, and families advocate for their child at school
- Looks at how teachers might ensure that they are working effectively with students and their families towards a cohesive and coherent set of educational goals for each child
- Is crucial reading for teachers in practice and training; higher education students of education studies; social supports workers in practice and training; education policy makers in practice and training

## How can students, their families, and their teachers all work together towards common educational goals?

Teachers want the best for their students, and a student's family wants the best for them too. But what "best" looks like can be different for everyone. A student's social identity and family context will have a significant impact on how they and their family define success at school. It is crucial for teachers to be aware of their own social identities, those of their students, and how these various identities might intersect, in order to understand what success might look like for each child in their classroom.

Exploring various aspects of social identity – including gender identity, race, ability and disability, and socioeconomic status– this book tackles the question of how teachers can work together with their students, as well as how social identity will inform various kinds of advocacy from parents, carers, and family. Vital reading for teachers and educators in practice and in training, this book features suggested discussion questions, practical extension activities, and real-life case studies from the context of K-12 schools in the US.

**Liz Dempsey Lee PhD** is an educator, consultant, and writer. Her field of expertise is in the interactions among and between families, schools, and communities, and how the concept of equity relates to those interactions. She strongly believes that equity is central to

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creating just schools, organizations, and communities, and through her company LizDempseyLee