

As we build new systems to safely educate students and support families, the foundation for success remains the same – **relationships.**

Virtual Home Visits help teachers establish trusting relationships with students and families, even when they cannot meet face-to-face.

Based on our success connecting teachers and families through the [Home Visit Project](#), Stand for Children is building a dedicated online platform, [VirtualHomeVisit.org](#), with guides for teachers and school administrators, parent engagement resources, online training, and **one year of no-cost access to the Home Visit (HV) App to support family re-engagement.** The HV App offers teachers and district administrators real-time data on virtual home visit progress and results.

WHAT IS A VIRTUAL HOME VISIT?

- A proactive, intentional re-engagement of families
- A scheduled video call between a teacher and a student's family, from the teacher's home or classroom to the family's home (duration varies, but expect 20-30 minutes)
- Takes place during the first grading period of the school year, with recommended follow-up at least once per semester (as dictated by the support and information needs of the student and family)

THE PROCESS

1. Teacher, school, or school district chooses the platform for video calls (with ease of use for families as a key consideration)
2. Teacher invites each of their assigned families to a Virtual Home Visit (see guide page 3). Homeroom or advisory roster could be used for teachers with more than one class of students
3. Teacher sends confirmation to scheduled families, including call date/time and details of how to connect
4. Teacher tracks Virtual Home Visits conducted and those still to be conducted/scheduled

THE PAYOFF

- Proactive communication demonstrates care and puts teachers and families on the same team
- Face-to-face (even video) visits build connection, empathy, and trust
- Teachers and families learn about one another, leading to true partnerships to benefit students

VIRTUAL HOME VISITS

Testimonials



"The HV app was so easy to use. It did not allow me to schedule conflicting times. It really helps you stay organized."

~ Jennifer Baldwin, Anne Frank ES



"Families see that we care and are invested in the development and well-being of their child."

~ Sheri Wood, Wilshire Elementary

"It allows the educator to see just how concerned and supportive parent are."

~ Ayra Perryman, Lincoln High School

"It makes students more comfortable with us. They see us as human beings and not someone distant."

~ Luz Covarrubias, Lida Hooe Elementary



"Parents talk to each other. It gets around the neighborhood that we are teachers who care. Parents feel like they can approach us with needs and problems they have."

~ Terry Guerra, KB Polk Elementary

REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTORY VIRTUAL HOME VISIT (BY PHONE OR EMAIL)

- Teacher introduction, including relationship to child (what they teach/ service they provide)
- Request for Virtual Home Visit (be clear about virtual format) to get to know one another better
- If requesting via email, offer multiple dates and times to connect; Consider using a scheduling system like [Doodle.com](https://doodle.com) to avoid scheduling conflicts.
- If parent/guardian declines, let them know the invitation is open should they change their mind
- When parent accepts:
 - Confirm the date, time, and expected length of the Virtual Home Visit
 - Request for student to be present during the Virtual Home Visit
 - Ask that the invitation be extended to any other household members the family wishes to be present

CONDUCTING THE INTRODUCTORY VIRTUAL HOME VISIT

- Teacher re-introduction, including relationship to child
- Request family introductions
- Teacher shares professional and personal information about themselves
 - Number of years in the profession, grades/ subjects taught
 - College/university attended
 - Family details, like number/names of children
 - Household details like types of pets (possibly with a video introduction!)
 - Hobbies, activities
- Teacher asks student and family members to share
 - Any pets?
 - What do you enjoy doing in your free time/for fun? Hobbies?
 - Favorite subjects in school (students and parents)?
 - Student's aspirations?
- Parents' hopes and dreams for student (this year and long-term)?
- What does family need from teacher for student to be successful?
- Teacher requests a partnership with family
 - Communicate any changes in school norms/ procedures implemented in response to COVID-19 (or in response to the shift to virtual/ blended learning)
 - Ask family to call/text/email with any helpful info or any needs/concerns
 - Ask how family prefers to hear from teacher (call/text/email?)
 - Ask when and how often family prefers to hear from teacher (timing, frequency)
- Explain how family can connect with other teachers and school service providers
- End call with information about when they can expect to hear from teacher again

CONDUCTING FOLLOW-UP VIRTUAL HOME VISITS

- Teacher re-introduction
- Ask about family members, re-establish rapport
- Provide student progress update (academic, social, etc.)
- Solicit family questions, concerns, needs
- End call with positive information, expectation of future success, and next call timeframe