Research from *New York Times* bestselling authors Joseph Grenny and David Maxfield reveals a discouraging communication gap between parents and teachers that has potential to affect a child’s success. Teachers feel parents don’t communicate major changes in the home and parents feel teachers don’t share revealing details about their child’s behavior in the classroom.

The study, based on principles found in Grenny’s bestselling book *Crucial Conversations*, found that a similar communication breakdown occurred across five major life changes that teachers see as major barriers to learning: death in the family, major illness, divorce or other family disruption, mood changes or possible drug use. For example:

- 93% of teachers want to know about a major illness or accident in the family, yet only 21% of parents inform the teacher when this happens.
- 89% of teachers want to know about a child’s depression or mood change. Only 27% of parents inform the teacher when this happens.

Teachers aren’t perfect either. Parents reported they were kept in the dark on a variety of issues their child experienced in the classroom that they wanted to know about, such as:

- Only 27% of teachers spoke up when they suspected drug use.
- Only 54% of teachers spoke up when they suspected depression, anxiety, or other mood disorders.

**KEY RESULTS**

In a study of 689 parents and 174 teachers, 94% of teachers feel it’s important for parents to inform them of a divorce or other rupture in the marriage. Yet, only 23% of divorcing parents say they told their child’s teacher.

“When life-altering events occur in the home that have potential to affect a child’s behavior and performance in the classroom, parents fail to share this information with the teachers who are trying to help their child succeed.”

— David Maxfield