

# Building and Supporting Parental Involvement

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“The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which a student’s family is able to (1) create a home environment that encourages learning; (2) communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for the child’s achievement and future career; and (3) become involved in the child’s education at school and in the community.” ~National PTA, *Building Successful Partnerships* (2000).



# How is parental involvement in education built and supported?

Parental involvement is built by creating family-friendly environments and programs which actively recruit, train and empower parents to assert their natural power as primary caregivers and advocates for their children.

Parents are more likely to promote educational goals and participate in the academic lives of their children at school (and home) when they feel welcomed, motivated and appreciated by teachers, school staff and administrators.



# School: Finding a Place for Parents

Schools can build and support voluntary parent involvement **by embedding plentiful, quality opportunities for parents and families** to engage in information gathering, enrichment activities, parent-teacher gatherings, and the decision-making processes **into their school culture.**



# Where does DC PIRC fit in?

The DC Parent Information Resource Center recognizes that some schools may require some additional support to achieve their parental involvement goals.

To that end, DC PIRC works directly with parents and schools to raise each side's level of awareness and engagement with the other. We hope our programs encourage, inspire and instigate increased and deeper collaboration between parents and school staff (individually and collectively).



# How does DC PIRC work?

With consent and support from the school's principal, DC PIRC staff begins implementing our year-long PIRC Program Plan.

DC PIRC staff act as facilitators and coordinating partners in conjunction with school staff and parents to tailor each piece of the plan to the school's individual character and culture.

DC PIRC staff only work in schools whose principals understand and agree to support each phase of the Program Plan because without administration enthusiasm and support, parental involvement will not flourish.



# What are the phases of the DC PIRC Program Plan?

DC PIRC Program Plan

Phase I: Getting to Know You

Phase II: Making It Work

Phase III: Building On Your Success

# Phase I: Getting to Know You

## **DC Family Education Expo**

The expo is a community event where families gain valuable information about educational programs for students of all ages. There are workshops and an exhibition hall featuring a variety of resources.

## **Parent Involvement Ratings**

Through a partnership with Howard University, we will assess school staff's level of parent engagement and the school administration will develop a plan to help school staff bridge the gap.

## **Welcoming School Walkthroughs**

The welcoming school climate walkthrough is a process of looking at an individual school as others may see it. This self examination provides schools with an opportunity to assess how family-friendly their school is.

## **Parent Visitation Day**

For one class period, parents are allowed to view the classroom from the teacher's perspective. They will review a lesson plan and receive a brief overview on expectations, curriculum and state academic standards. We guarantee that parents will leave the classroom with a renewed commitment and respect for the role of teachers.

## **Parents as Partners**

Parents as Partners (PAP) for early childhood, elementary, and secondary schools is a 9-week parental involvement curriculum developed by the National Council of La Raza. Upon completion, parents will be able to articulate new knowledge, demonstrate new skills, and with increased confidence advocate for services at school that improve their child's chances for academic success. New sessions start every fall.



# Phase II: Making It Work

## **Fathers Reading Everyday (FRED)**

FRED is a 4-session program for dads and their children to read together and meet other dads who are committed to learning. This program is in partnership with the UDC.

## **Family Book Club**

The Family Book Club is offered to parents of the pre-kindergarten students in partnership with CentroNia. To increase literacy skills, language development, and school readiness among children while simultaneously strengthening parental literacy skills, parents and children are brought together in small groups where they read, share stories, and build relationships based on mutual trust and respect in a multicultural setting.

## **School Community Action Teams**

The School Community Action Team creates an action plan that supports children's successes, builds relationships within the school community, and helps to empower other parents.

## **Book Sharing Program**

Through donations from books for America, DC PIRC provides each early childhood classroom in need a supply of children's literature to build upon their current libraries. The purpose of the Book Sharing Program is to support children's evolving literacy skills and to encourage parent interaction and involvement with both children and text by sharing the center's literary resources.

## **Mother Goose Parent Education Workshops**

The Mother Goose Parent Education Workshops are offered to parents of the pre-kindergarten students in partnership with the DC Public Library. The workshops assist parents and providers in understanding the importance of sharing math, science, and reading skills with children at an early age.

# Phase III: Building On Your Success

## **School Based Parent Centers**

DC PIRC staff along with parents and schools personnel design model parent centers in Wards 1, 7, and 8 that reflect the diverse needs of families.

Grants will be awarded to schools with a vision for providing families with a safe, extended learning environment.

## **Parent Workshops, Seminars, and Fairs**

DC-PIRC will work with your school to host a community resource fair. The fairs bring neighborhood agencies to your school. Here, parents can learn more about and connect to the available programs and services in their community. There are also workshops available on, DC-CAS, NCLB and the importance of parental involvement.

## **Language Services**

Through the Language Services Program at Multicultural Community Service, we are able to bring parents together with simultaneous interpretation. No parent is left behind. Everyone has an equal opportunity to participate in our programs and activities.



# What happens after Phase III?

By the end of Phase III, each PIRC school and parent should feel empowered and engaged in a way that motivates them to maintain high levels of collaboration and involvement.

**Our ultimate goal is to help schools and parents build an ongoing support system for parental involvement. We look to the schools and parents to engage more parents to grow the movement within their communities.**



Thank you!



DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation