



Parent Information Press

A quarterly publication from the New York State Parental Information and Resource Centers

The New York State Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRC) are funded by the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, Watertown, NY and EPIC—Every Person Influences Children, Buffalo, NY. The primary goal of the programs is to help strengthen partnerships between families and schools to increase student achievement. If you would like more information on any topic related to parenting and involvement in your child's education, please visit our website at www.nyspirc.org.



Future of Family Engagement In New York State with the Elimination of the PIRCs

Over the past five years the New York State Parental Information and Resource Centers have offered a variety of strategies to schools and parents to close the achievement gap and improve educational achievement for all students. Research from over 30 years proves that parental involvement improves student achievement. NYSPIRCs provided schools and districts with tools to effectively partner with parents. The NYSPIRCs empowered parents to advocate for their children and school reform. They provided training and professional development on effective family engagement to school districts. They collaborated with the New York State PTA to engage all public school parents in their children's education. Several best practices were instituted in many school districts, such as the use of Family Liaisons, establishment of parent groups/parent leadership academies, and parent resource rooms.

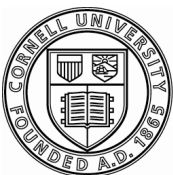
FORMATION OF A STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COALITION is in the planning stages through the leadership of representatives from EPIC, NYSPTA and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County. The role of the proposed coalition is below:

- Advocate for family engagement policies and their implementation in New York State.
- Access and disseminate the latest research and best practices on family engagement.
- Act in an advisory capacity to state government, including executive and legislative branches, NYS Education Department, and statewide agencies, as it relates to policy development.

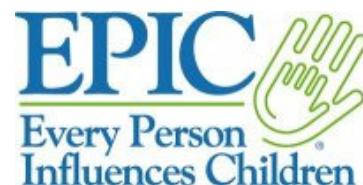
Future announcements regarding participation and membership in the NYS Family Engagement Coalition will be announced on the NYSPIRC website, through mailings to school personnel, and press releases.

*SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Recently, the United States Department of Education announced PIRC funding will end this year due to budgetary constraints. The New York State PIRC-CCE office will offer reduced services until November 30, 2011 and the PIRC-EPIC office until December 30, 2011. The NYSPIRC website (www.nyspirc.org) will continue serving as a location for technical assistance guides and other resources for educators and parents.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Jefferson County



Parental Information and Resource Center (CCE-PIRC), sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, provides services throughout Upstate New York.

EPIC (Every Person Influences Children) operates PIRC centers in Buffalo, Bronx, Yonkers, Fallsburg, Monticello, and Queens, Syracuse, and Rochester.

What Are the Common Core Standards?

On January 10th, 2011, the New York State Board of Regents approved the recommended additions to the Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy and Common Core Learning Standards for Mathematics, plus a new set of Prekindergarten Standards. The Common Core Standards define the knowledge and skills students should acquire throughout their K-12 education careers ensuring they will graduate high school fully prepared for college and careers. The standards are:

- Aligned with college and work expectations
- Clean, understandable and consistent
- Content based with application of knowledge through high order skills
- Built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
- Informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society
- Evidence and research-based.



Mission Statement of Common Core Standards: The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

What do the Common Core State Standards Mean for Families and Students?

The **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**:

- Common standards mean that students in New York are learning the same thing as students across the country. Students moving into or out of New York will have a smoother educational transition because learning goals will now be the same across states.
- They are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- All students graduating college and career-ready is the goal of the CCSS. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in whatever they choose to do after graduation.
- What students learn in school should be directly related to what they'll be required to do once they leave. The Common Core places a strong emphasis on reading informational and technical texts to prepare students for the demands of college and the workplace.
- Too many students entering New York universities and community colleges require remedial classes in English and Math. The CCSS are designed to make that a problem of the past by fully preparing students for college-level coursework.
- Common standards mean that teaching and learning resources and materials can be shared across states.

For additional information go to the following websites:

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/

http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/News/201112/PDFs/CCSS_ParentsGuide.pdf

Everyday Learning: Encouraging your teenager to be successful at school

Research shows that parent involvement declines as children move into middle and high school, yet, most family engagement programs focus on the elementary level. It may be challenging to stay involved in your teen's education, but the benefits are worth the effort. Some strategies include getting your teenager to talk about their future dreams by asking "which college" or "what kind of job seems most interesting," which can help your teen form concrete goals about college, technical training or career choices. Having high expectations for your teen has been proven, through research, to have a significant influence on achievement growth, completion of high school and whether your child becomes a lifelong learner. When they have high and realistic expectations of themselves, they understand and adopt the high value your family places on education. Setting up homework routines at home early on and continuing them throughout high school will promote success. Asking your teen questions and helping them format questions to ask their teacher during the next class will be beneficial with tough homework assignments. Encourage extracurricular activities such as service oriented projects, which could impact the college admissions process and assist them in developing effective time management and organizational skills. These skills will help them with their increased work load in high school and college.



Ask the Educator

This section features questions from parents related to parenting and children's education from birth through high school. Research-based answers are provided by the staff of the New York State PIRCS. If you would like to submit a question, please email it to info@nyspirc.org.

Dear Educator: My daughter is in ninth grade and wants to attend college. We have discussed plans for college, however, at this point she isn't sure what direction to take. Is it too early to think about college planning in ninth grade? What are some things she can do now to be successful in college? Do you have any information that would help us search for the best colleges and financial aid information?

It is never too early to start thinking about college. Some schools have introduced college programs as early as kindergarten. Whether your daughter ends up in college isn't the point right now. Instead focus on giving her information and using strategies to promote success in college.

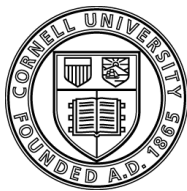
Encourage your daughter to attend school each day, monitor her academic progress on a regular basis and seek out assistance when necessary. Talk about plans and goals for the future. Stress the importance of her grades in 9th grade, as colleges will look at grades beginning this year. Ensure she is taking the appropriate classes to graduate and search for extracurricular and service activities that will show her diverse background and interests. Many colleges are just as interested in a student's activities as they are his/her grades. Assist your daughter with preparing a college portfolio with documentation, certificates, and awards she receives during her high school years.

For a detailed list of college readiness activities and information download the "[College and Career Guide for Students and Families.](#)" or "[The Getting Ready for College Guide](#)" both publications can found on the NYSPIRC website under "Parent Resources" at <http://www.nyspirc.org/info/index.php/parent-resources/guides-fact-sheets/>.

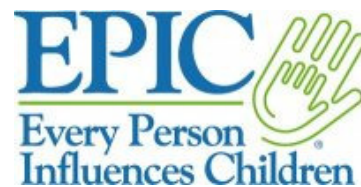
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Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County

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