



New York State Parental Information and Resource Center

Technical Assistance Guide

Family Resource Centers

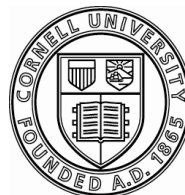
What is the purpose of a Family Resource Center?

- To provide a location in the school where parents can borrow books, educational materials and resources.
- To offer a place for family and community members to gather for conversation and planning.
- To improve the school's partnership strategies by interfacing with parents and families.
- To have a continued and positive physical presence of family members in the school.
- To demonstrate to parents the school's commitment of involving all parents in the education of their children.
- To help increase parent involvement and student achievement in the school.

Families often feel more comfortable when there is a special place they can gather in the school. A Family Resource Center is an essential part of a family friendly school. Family friendly schools invite parent involvement and help increase student achievement.

How can your school create a Family Resource Center?

- Determine a location that would be suitable for a Family Resource Center. This can either be a vacant room within your school building or it can simply be a portable rack that can move from location to location depending on available space. Wherever the area is located, it should be easily accessible to parents or family members.
- Involve a committee of parents and school personnel to identify sources of monetary assistance (PTO/PTA's, Title I Parental Involvement funds, community foundations etc.). This team can also prioritize items to include in the resource area that address the school's interests and needs.
- Your New York State Parental Information and Resource Center is available to help facilitate this process, provide strategies to improve parental involvement, and provide technical assistance as you create your Family Resource Center.



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What materials should be included in a Family Resource Center?

Materials for a Family Resource Center should include items appropriate for the school's audience and interests.

Items to consider:

- Literacy bags
- Math games
- College Preparation
- Parenting books
- Resources for teachers
- SAT/ACT Study Guides
- Educational toys
- DVDs
- NYS PIRC materials

Visit the New York State Parental Information and Resource Center website (www.nyspirc.org) for over 100 downloadable resources that you can print and share with families.

Most topics fall under the following categories:

- No Child Left Behind and School Accountability
- Helping Your Child with School
- Helping Your Child at Home
- Parenting Tips

National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs

- **Communicating**– Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- **Parenting**– Parenting skills are promoted and supported.
- **Student Learning**– Schools recognize that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.
- **Volunteering**– Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.
- **School Decision Making and Advocacy**– Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.
- **Collaborating with Community**– Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)
Families and Communities Together with Schools

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