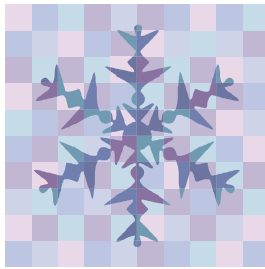




School Connections

A quarterly publication from FACTS, a New York State Parental Information and Resource Center

Families and Communities Together with Schools (FACTS) is a New York State Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC). The FACTS program is funded by the US Department of Education and provides information and support to parents and schools with a focus on parental involvement. If you have any questions regarding parental involvement, please call the FACTS School Coordinator at (315) 779-7071, email dlothrop@mail.boces.com, or visit our website at www.nyspirc.org.



"Seek first to understand, before you seek to be understood."
Steven Covey

*"You don't make decisions because they're easy. You don't make them because they're cheap. You don't make them because they're popular. You make them because *they're right*."*
Theodore Hesburgh

~Be sure to visit our website at www.nyspirc.org to view our archived webinar on "The Challenges of Working with Parents".~



Professional Resource Review

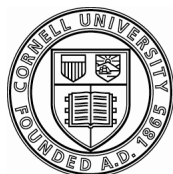
How to Deal with Parents Who are Angry, Troubled, Afraid, or Just Plain Crazy

By Elaine K. Mc Ewan

Research has shown that nearly a third of all new teachers leave the profession after just three years, and after five years almost half are gone. Many of these teachers state the reason they leave the field is due to the challenges of working with parents. This educational resource provides strategies for handling angry parents and provides effective ways to create a school environment that enhances parent-teacher-school relations.

This book will help administrators and teachers learn how to diffuse emotionally charged parents. It also provides a Healthy School Checklist to assess how well your school creates a family friendly culture for students, families and community members. A built-in facilitator's guide is included to use for book groups or professional development. By building positive relationships with families, you can work together toward the goal of helping all students reach their full potential.

FACTS is a New York State PIRC sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County in partnership with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.



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Helping Families Learn How to Read Together

Family engagement in schools requires a shift from the habit of delivering information to parents towards facilitating delivery (Cushman, 1998). How many times, as educators, do we stress to parents the importance of reading to their children? Unfortunately, many families do not understand how to read to their children, and it is unlikely they will ask for help. Learning to read is a process that begins when a child is born and continues throughout early elementary school. It is important that schools take the time to educate parents on the five skill areas of reading and provide specific strategies to use at home when reading with their child. This can be done through parent conferences, newsletters, video clips, class websites, or utilizing the PIRC parent guide on "Helping Your Child Learn to Read," which can be downloaded from our website at www.nyspirc.org. When schools educate families on how to read with their children, parents' confidence levels increase, and the children make significant gains in reading.

Title I Schools

During recent professional development workshops with educators, there have been many questions regarding Title I schools and the requirements for parental involvement. In order to clarify some of these questions the following information is provided:

What is a Title I school?

A Title I school receives supplemental federal funding due to a high percentage of low-income students. Title I is part of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Law and is intended to help close the achievement gap between low and high performing schools.

What are Title I requirements for parental involvement?

Title I schools are required to:

- Develop a parent involvement policy and school-parent compact
- Hold an annual meeting to explain the Title I policy and programs
- Give parents up-to-date academic information about their child in an easy to understand format
- Communicate the school's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to parents
- Involve parents in the decision making process

What can Title I funds be used for?

Examples of how Title I funds can be used for family engagement:

- Supporting family engagement activities in the school, for example "literacy night for families"
- Providing after-school, summer or inter-session programs
- Purchasing materials and equipment for use by parents
- Hiring family liaisons
- Creating and maintaining family resource centers in the school
- Providing parenting programs and classes

This publication was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parental Information and Resource Center program, under grant #84.310.A. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, any other agency of the U.S. government, or any other source.

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