



New York State Parental Information and Resource Center

Technical Assistance Guide

Family Friendly Walk Through

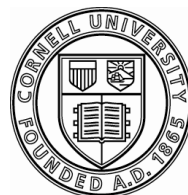
What is the purpose of a family friendly walk through?

- To determine how well the school is meeting the NCLB and Title I requirements.
- To assess the school’s ability to create a partnership with families through its physical environment, home-school communication, and policies and practices.
- To examine the school to determine how inviting it appears to visitors and others in the community.
- To assist the school in developing strategies for creating a welcoming environment for families.
- To increase and improve the overall parental involvement and student achievement of the school.

Family friendly schools and classroom environments invite parental involvement and help to increase student achievement.

Contact your local PIRC office for technical assistance.

BRONX (718) 294-1494	MONTICELLO (845) 794-8830	SYRACUSE (315) 435-4890
BUFFALO (716) 332-4191	QUEENS (718) 706-7071	WATERTOWN (315) 788-8450
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Cornell University
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How can your school conduct a family friendly walk through?

- Visit the New York State Parental Information and Resource Center website (www.nyspirc.org) to download the Family Friendly Walk Through checklist.
- Recruit one or two representatives from your school to participate in the family friendly walk through (parents, community members, or staff). They will partner with 3-4 others, preferably from outside the school community (local PIRC staff or community agency staff), to complete the family friendly walk through team.
- A school representative collects various documents suggested by the materials checklist. The walk through team then meets to review the materials and the walk through process.
- The team completes the family friendly walk through in a visit lasting approximately 1 1/2-2 hours. They will look at the physical environment, home-school communication as well as policies and practices.
- The results of the walk through are presented to parents, administration, staff, community members or others of your choice.
- A six month follow up visit should be scheduled to observe changes and monitor progress. The results of the follow up visit are shared with the principal and/or school team.
- Your New York State Parental Information and Resource Centers are available to help facilitate this process, provide strategies to develop an action plan, and provide technical assistance to the school.

"The way schools care about children is reflected in the way schools care about the children's families."

-Joyce Epstein

Materials Checklist:

- Parent Involvement policy
- Parent compact
- Copy of school newsletter
- School event fliers
- Student handbook
- Parent handbook
- School's monthly calendar of events
- Letters sent home to families from administration
- Letters sent home from teachers
- Welcome packets for new families
- Kindergarten orientation information for parents
- Any additional written communication for parents

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

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