

Parent Involvement: Keys to Success

A podcast series from the Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center

Helping Parents Understand the Data: How Is My Child Doing? What Do the Scores Mean?

Listener's Guide

Key idea: Help parents understand the data by focusing on the data that is most important to them and their child, and communicate it in multiple ways to meet the needs of all parents.

Key Information	Notes
Strategies for providing NCLB information to parents <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a simple, easy to understand format.2. Consider parents whose native language is not English.3. Provide training for parents to help them understand the information and their options.	
Strategies for Educators <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with small groups of parents to make meetings more accessible and relevant.• Record school meetings for parents who cannot attend.• Encourage two-way communication by providing reply cards and conducting follow-up phone calls.	
Strategies for SEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a parent involvement resource page on the state Web site to provide user-friendly information to parents.• Provide professional development for school and district staff on interpreting data so they can better communicate with parents.	

Resources

Epstein, J., McClure, P., & Gerne, K. (2002). Summary of Ideas from National Network of Partnership Schools Leadership Development Conference. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University. Retrieved March 4, 2008, from http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/pdf/nochild/ideas_%20summ_%201102.pdf

Holland, H. (2000). Parents learn importance of analyzing school data. *Parent Leader*, 1, 1-6. Retrieved March 4, 2008, from <http://www.prichardcommittee.org/pubs/cipl/v1n3.pdf>

WestEd. (2007). *Engaging parents in education: Lessons from five parental information and resource centers*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved March 4, 2008, from <http://ed.gov/admins/comm/parents/parentinvolve/index.html>