

Introducing Oregon's PIRC

Have you ever wondered if Oregon had a PIRC? And if Oregon did—what could the PIRC do for you?

A PIRC is a Parental Information and Resource Center. Oregon's PIRC provides materials, technical assistance, and training to educators and parents throughout the state. Its goals are to:

- Strengthen the school-family partnerships that create success for Oregon's children and youth
- Assist families in understanding their rights and responsibilities under No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
- Coordinate partnership activities to ensure that schools and families are served statewide
- Further the school readiness of young children through parent education programs

Statewide Impact

The Oregon PIRC develops materials for educators and parents to expand their skills and abilities to form effective and meaningful partnerships. These resources include:

- **A Web Site:** The Web site provides links to many products (including the items listed below), as well as links regarding NCLB and the latest research on school-family partnerships. It will also portray snapshots from Oregon's schools that have developed best prac-

tices in reaching out to and partnering with diverse families.

- **An Electronic Newsletter:** The newsletter is written for educators and provides information about research and best practices in school-family partnerships. It highlights programs throughout the state that can assist educators in meeting their parent involvement goals, and programs that can assist families in meeting the educational needs of their children. The electronic newsletter also includes a Parent Page (in both Spanish and English) that can be used as a handout at parent meetings or inserted into your school's newsletter.
- **Electronic Training Sessions:** The online training sessions for educators will explore such topics as principal leadership in parent involvement and how to engage families in developing policies and school improvement planning. The sessions for parents will help families understand the provisions of NCLB, as well as provide them with skills and information to help their children succeed in school.
- **Technical Assistance Packages:** Teachers, parent involvement coordinators, parent groups, and parents can use these information and training packages as guides for parent meetings



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or as information to share with parents during conferences. These packages include electronic training sessions, handouts, and suggested activities and discussion questions. The packages will be in both English and Spanish, with audio and video segments. The first TA packages help parents understand statewide accountability, school choice, and supplemental educational services.

Targeted Training and Technical Assistance

The Oregon PIRC provides information about effective school-family partnerships through training workshops, e-mail and telephone technical assistance, targeted on-site technical assistance to schools and districts, and the parent engagement sessions and Parent Conference within the Annual OACE Winter Conference. Our primary goal with technical assistance activities is to help schools/districts coordinate parent involvement policies and practices with their school improvement plans and help them reach their parent involvement goals.

Outreach to Non-English Speaking Families

Because of the rapidly expanding population of Spanish-speaking students (and their families), many of our parent engagement efforts focus on providing resources that schools can use with Latino families, as well as other families whose first language is not English. The Oregon PIRC translates and revises resources (in multiple languages and at various literacy levels) to make them more family-friendly.

Early Childhood Parent Education

To further the school readiness of young children, the Oregon PIRC supports Parents As Teachers (PAT) early childhood parent education programs within the state. We provide funding to train parent educators, obtain materials in other languages, purchase translation equipment and translation services, and support ongoing activities.

To Serve You

Please feel free to contact any of the staff with questions or technical assistance needs:

Project Director

Debbie Ellis
503-275-9552
Debbie.Ellis@educationnorthwest.org

Staff Development Specialist

Keisha Edwards
503-275-9553
Keisha.Edwards@educationnorthwest.org

ESL Specialist

Delia Palomeque
503-275-9550
Delia.Palomeque@educationnorthwest.org

Contact information:

Oregon Parental Information and Resource Center
101 SW Main, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97204
503-275-9552 or 888-877-6266
orpirc@educationnorthwest.org
OregonPIRC.org



Please
contact
us soon!