



The Maryland State Parental Information Resource Center (PIRC), is designed to assist Maryland parents and educators to address issues related to family involvement and closing the achievement gap. PIRC operates under the umbrella of the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAC), building on MAC's more than 25 years of experience working with Maryland parents and schools to improve student achievement. The Maryland PIRC's special projects include:

Statewide Component

- Sponsors four regional conferences
- Provides and develops information for parents, parent advocates, community members and educators on issues related to parenting, learning at home, communicating with schools, and identifying community resources
- Builds networks between parents, parent advocates, community members and educators
- Facilitates training and technical assistance on parenting and achievement related issues for students, and
- Offers a bilingual (Spanish) website and a Parent Bilingual (Spanish) Hotline (1-877-637-2736).

Parent-Focused Component

Tellin' Stories, a program of Teaching for Change, works directly with parents to:

- Create opportunities for families to connect to each other and to their school
- Develop leadership skills
- Identify and prioritize concerns
- Take action, evaluate and sustain family engagement, and
- Collaborate with all members of the school to ensure a safe, healthy learning environment for children.

School-Focused Component

The National Network of Partnership Schools, in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, works directly with educators to:

- Develop and sustain excellent programs of partnerships that fulfill NCLB requirements for parental involvement
- Assist schools using an action team approach, writing goal-oriented plans and selecting practices to involve families and communities to increase student success in school, and
- Offer direct, on-going, and on-call assistance from Brenda G. Thomas, Director of Maryland Partnership Program Development.

Early Childhood Component

In partnership with Friends of the Family and the Judy Centers, we work directly with parents of pre-school age children to:

- Increase use of effective parenting at home, and
- Build parent's leadership skills to work more effectively as their child's advocate at home, in pre-school and with school and community organizations.

For More Information, Please Contact:

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