



The Maryland State Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) is designed to assist Maryland parents and educators to address issues related to family engagement and closing achievement gaps. MD 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

- Hosts *Parenting Matters* regional conferences for families, educators and community members
- 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 partnerships between parents, parent advocates, community members and educators
- Facilitates training and technical assistance on issues related to parenting and academic achievement, and
- Offers a bilingual (Spanish) website and a Parent Bilingual (Spanish) Hotline (1-877-637-2736).

School-based 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 and 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-linked 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 Center Partnerships, we work directly with parents of preschool aged 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 preschool and within school and community organizations.

For More Information, Please Contact:

Susan Shaffer, Executive Director
MD Parental Information and Resource Center
shaffer@mdpirc.org

5272 River Road, Suite 340, Bethesda, MD 20816
P: (301) 657-7741 x 118, F: (301) 657-8782
www.mdpirc.org