

## SEDL’s Research Publications on Parental Involvement Inform NCLB Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Education used research when creating new guidelines to help schools administer the parental involvement provisions of NCLB. *Parental Involvement: Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance* draws on work done by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) and other current research to answer questions about parental involvement.

"There is an increasing national emphasis on research-based educational programs and practices," says Cathy Jordan, director of SEDL's National Center for Family, School, and Community Connections. "It is critical, therefore, that those who lead parent and family initiatives be familiar with research in the field in order to be credible and to lead successfully."

Two of SEDL’s research publications, *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement* and *Diversity: School, Family, and Community Connections*, identify research-based strategies for connecting families and communities with schools. These strategies, listed below, are integrated throughout the *Guidance* publication to help implement NCLB mandates.

<i>Research-based strategies described in SEDL’s syntheses</i>	<i>NCLB mandates for local school districts to increase parental involvement and family support for student learning</i>
<b>Schools and school districts should adopt formal policies that promote family involvement.</b>	<p><i>Local schools and districts must jointly develop, with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, written parental involvement policies establishing district expectations that include how schools will provide</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities;</i></li> <li>- <i>training to increase school and parent capacity for strong parental involvement;</i></li> <li>- <i>coordination and integration of parental involvement strategies for other programs; and</i></li> <li>- <i>an annual evaluation, with parental involvement, of content and effectiveness of these policies, specifically identifying barriers to parental participation.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Schools and school districts should strengthen school staff capacity to work effectively with families.</b>	<p><i>Local schools and districts must educate their staff in effective strategies to engage parents as equal partners, including processes that promote</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>value and utility of parental contributions;</i></li> <li>- <i>ways to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents;</i></li> <li>- <i>methods to implement and coordinate programs; and</i></li> <li>- <i>ways to build ties between parents and schools.</i></li> </ul>

**Schools and school districts should provide training and resources to families that will help parents support early literacy.**

*Local schools and districts must provide materials and trainings to help parents work with children to improve student achievement by providing*

- literacy programs;
- information about essential components to reading instruction for enabling parents to support teacher instruction; and
- training to parents about various resources.

**Schools and school districts should design programs that help families guide their children's learning from preschool through high school.**

*Local schools and districts must coordinate and conduct*

- parent involvement activities with programs such as Head Start, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, or Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters and
- other activities, such as forming parent resource centers that support parents in becoming more involved in their children's education.

To learn more about the *Guidance* publication, go to [www.sde.state.id.us/Dept/ParentInvolvement.htm](http://www.sde.state.id.us/Dept/ParentInvolvement.htm).

For more information about SEDL's National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools, go to [www.sedl.org/connections](http://www.sedl.org/connections).