

ATTENTION SCHOOLS

Opportunity for NJPIRC Parent Involvement Resource Space

June 30, 2008

Dear School Principal,

Prevent Child Abuse-NJ (PCA-NJ) is the recipient of a five year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement to implement the New Jersey State Parent Information and Resource Center (NJPIRC). The overall goal of NJPIRC is to improve student academic achievement and to help ensure that students in NJ, particularly those in low performing districts, achieve high academic performance. Through the NJPIRC, PCA-NJ is working to assist schools in the development of policies, programs, and practices that involve families in their child's educational experiences as a means to promote academic success. A strong body of evidence demonstrates that children are far more likely to succeed in school when their parents and caregivers are engaged in the process. Parent involvement is defined as "the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities."

In an effort to provide supportive resources to schools across the state as they fulfill the important task of involving parents in their child's education, the **New Jersey State Parent Information and Resource Center (NJPIRC)** is proud to offer the opportunity for schools to create a "Parent Involvement Resource Space" to be located within the school building. Parents rely on schools for critical parenting information. Parents also need to be able to communicate with school personnel regarding questions and concerns about their child, or school related events, policies, etc. Unfortunately, many schools do not have the space to house parent resources. It is also challenging for schools to maintain a library of current parenting resources. In addition, parents may not have the resources such as a home computer to express their concerns/questions to school personnel via e-mail, or internet access to research needed parenting information.

Through this initiative, PCA-NJ will assist 20 schools from across the state in creating a "Parent Involvement Resource Space." The creation of this space will serve to provide parents with much needed information, and create an opportunity for the lines of communication to be open between parents and the school. Successful applicants will receive a **Free Wire Display Stand complete with materials for parents**, a **Free Question & Answer/Suggestion Box to enable parents to safely express their concerns/questions/suggestions**, a **Free Computer parents can utilize to e-mail school personnel or conduct research**, and a **Parent Involvement Resource Space Tool Kit**.

The first 20 schools to apply for this opportunity and successfully demonstrate their ability to fulfill all application requirements as outlined in a letter of agreement with Prevent Child Abuse NJ/NJPIRC will receive the items mentioned above. Enclosed you will find an application in which we ask you to briefly describe how and where you would use the computer, display stand and suggestion box and how it will benefit the families in your school. A copy of the sample letter of agreement outlining conditions of the agreement is also enclosed. Successful applicants will be required to sign this letter prior to receipt of the resources. All materials will be distributed to schools by September 12, 2008. Preference will be given to applicant schools who have not received prior funds from NJPIRC. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Deisroth at 732-246-8060.

Sincerely,

Milady Murillo

Parent Involvement Resource Space



Sponsored by NJPIRC, a Program of Prevent Child Abuse NJ

Application for NJPIRC Parent Involvement Resource Space at Schools

Name of School or District _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact person _____ Position _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

If awarded, check should be payable to?

How many students are enrolled in your school _____

Percentage of current students who are minorities _____

Percentage of current students eligible for free/reduced lunch program _____

Percentage of current students who are limited English proficiency _____

Percentage of current students with IEPs _____

Please answer the following questions. You may attach additional sheets as necessary.

1. Where will your school place the computer, display stand and question/answer box so it is accessible to parents?
2. What provisions will be made to allow flexible access to the *Parent Involvement Resource Space* to working and non-working parents?
3. In what ways do you envision your school and parents using the resources space to improve parent Involvement? (Display stand/ Computer/ Suggestion Box)

NJPIRC Parent Involvement Resource Space

Summary Report (Due: January 15 / April 15 / June 30, 2009)

Name of School or District _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact person _____ Position _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Where did your school place the computer? _____

How did your school and your parents use the computer? _____

Where did your school place the display rack? _____

How and how often did your school and the parents use the display rack? _____

Where did your school place the question/answer box? _____

How often did your parents use the question/answer box? _____

What provisions will be made to allow flexible access to the Resource Space to working and non-working parents?

Describe the top three reasons why parents used the computer.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Number of times computer was used by parents each month?

Sept _____ Oct _____ Nov _____ Dec _____ Jan _____ Feb _____ March _____ April _____ May _____ June _____

**Please provide us with a brief narrative of ways the resource center space improved parent involvement?
Also provide us with some highlights of the reporting period. (Display stand/ Computer/ Suggestion Box)**



State Headquarters: 103 Church Street, Suite 210, New Brunswick, NJ

Northern NJ Office: 35 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Prevent Child Abuse NJ

(through the New Jersey State Parent Information & Resource Center-NJ PIRC, Grant #84.310A)

And _____

Term of Agreement This Agreement shall be in effect for the period of *September 22, 2008 through June 30, 2009* unless otherwise terminated as provided herein below.

Prevent Child Abuse–New Jersey agrees to:

- a. Deliver computer and other materials to participating school.
- b. Provide a minimum of one site visit per year to the NJPIRC Parent Involvement Resource Space at your school.

Your School Agrees To:

- a. Allocate space to place Parent Involvement Resource Space in a convenient location for parents /caregivers to use.
- b. Install, regularly maintain, and secure computers so that they are accessible throughout the terms of this agreement.
- c. Network the computer in a manner that allows Internet access.
- d. Utilize the computers to allow parent/caregiver access during school days.
- e. Designate NJPIRC/PCA-NJ website as the homepage on the donated computer at all times.
- f. Recognize NJPIRC/PCA-NJ as the sponsor of the Parent Involvement Resource Space.
- g. Have your school information included in the NJPIRC website as a partner.
- h. Provide data on utilization through information that offers non-identifying participant and recipient information and demographics.
- i. Submit two usage reports to NJPIRC/PCA-NJ in January, April, and June 2009.
- j. Return computer upon request should the site stop using computers in accordance with this agreement.
- k. Recycle or dispose of computer equipment at the end of its useful life in a way that does minimal ecological harm.
- l. Replenish materials to restock the display.
- m. Share parental testimonials for the use of the wire display and or Question and Answer/Suggestion Box.

Debra Vizzi, Chief Executive Officer
Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey

Date

School Principal Name

Signature

Date

Bldg where Resource Center will be located

School District