

Northern NJ Parent Empowerment Summit WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Common Core Standards Initiative (CCSS): Presented by NJPTA CCSS Representative

On June 16, 2010 the NJ State Board of Education adopted CCSS. This will be the basis for local curriculum and instruction for all students, the Statewide assessment system, and the evaluation of local district boards of education. This presentation will inform parents about the CCSS. The standards are designed to build upon the most advanced current thinking about preparing all students for success in college and their careers. **(Spanish Translation Available)**

A. Parent Guide to Student Academic, Career, and Life Success: Presented by Dale G. Caldwell

Every student has the capacity to excel in school. This presentation utilizes the book "School to Work To Success" to empower and inspire parents to help their children succeed in school by learning how to connect their school work with concrete career and life objectives. The presentation will cover the most important aspects of parental involvement and student achievement. After attending the session, parents will be able to help their children enhance their school work and college/life success.

B. Hints to help single mothers improve educational achievement for boys: Presented by Matthew Stevens

The workshop will provide hands on proven strategies to help single mothers engage male children ages 10-18 in activities that improve student achievement. Through a series of activities, case studies and role playing, parents will learn how to be active in helping their children enhance their academic success. **(Spanish Translation Available)**

C. Thinkfinity-Parents and Children Learning Together: Presented by Jacki Di Gregorio

The Verizon Foundation's Thinkfinity portal includes activities to use in and out of the classroom, games for young children and teens, adult literacy resources and reference materials for anyone in the education field, as well as for parents and afterschool practitioners. Thinkfinity's Content Partners are each responsible for one of the program's nine discipline-specific, standards-based web sites. Participants will develop a familiarity with Thinkfinity's contents as well as gain an understanding of how the content will benefit their children.

D. Access2Success: Teaching Tomorrow's Family Leaders Today: Presented by Darryl C. Walls

Situational leadership will be the model examined and explained to help parents understand the distinction of job, task, and activity, apply concepts to current situations in your environment, identify and understand the indicators of ability and willingness, identify leader directed versus self directed performance, know which leadership styles have the highest probability of success in various situations and understand that there is no one best way to lead.

E. Let us have an honest conversation about parental involvement and what is parental involvement under the "No Child Left Behind": Presented by Anthony D. White, Sr.

This session will provide participants an opportunity to share successful techniques and frustrations in working in partnership with districts and schools. Despite our challenges, parents must be engaged. In this hands-on interactive session, participants will explore ways to become meaningful partners in educating their children and be assets at the decision-making table. **(Spanish Translation Available)**

F. "Breaking Down the Barriers in the Parent-Teacher Conversation-Allies on the Same Team!": Presented by Maryann Wood-Murphy

This workshop will help parents to reframe the teacher-parent relationship in order to energize it for the good of the student. Effective techniques for developing productive conversations will empower parents to renew their approach to these important relationships.

G. Services for ELL Students Presented by New York Office for Civil Rights staff members

This presentation focuses on the Federal requirements of Title VI as it applies to the provision of services to students who are English language learners or who are limited English proficient. Attendees will learn more about the services school districts are required to provide to both students and parents of students for whom English is not a dominant language. **(Spanish Translation Available)**

H. Services for Students with Disabilities Presented by New York Office for Civil Rights staff members

This presentation focuses on the Federal requirements of Section 504 as it applies to students who have a disability or who are suspected of having a disability. Attendees will learn about the special education process including the referral, evaluation, and placement of students. Attendees will also learn about their due process rights and the provision of services to students who have a disability but may not qualify for special education. **(Spanish Translation Available)**

I. The Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) program :Communicating with Teachers

The **Pathways to Parenting** component uses a strengths-based model to promote skills development for parents/families of all backgrounds and empower parents to become more involved in their child's education. Facilitators are trained to guide a discussion rather than teach a course, and they encourage all participants to contribute to the group discussion. **(Spanish Only)**