



Did You Know...?

What is a PIRC?

PIRC = Parent Information and Resource Center



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PIRC stands for Parent Information and Resource Center. PIRCs are programs that are grant funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement. In all, there are 60 PIRCs across the United States, including Puerto Rico, Guam, the US Virgin Islands and others. *Parents Reaching Out is the PIRC for New Mexico.*

Why Were PIRCs funded?

PIRCs were funded in order to help implement successful and effective parental involvement policies, programs, and activities that address the education needs of **all children** and lead to improvements in student academic achievement. PIRCs accomplish this by strengthening the partnerships between parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and other school personnel.

PIRCs are committed to using data and evaluation to support and measure their efforts. All of the PIRCs are working toward collecting high-quality data on numerous legislated outcomes.

Where Do PIRCs Provide Services

PIRCs are required to be statewide, serving rural and urban areas.

Who Do PIRCs Serve?

Parents/Families

PIRCs serve all families within their state. However, PIRCs focus on low income, minority, and limited English proficient (LEP) children. At least half of a PIRC's funds must go towards serving these at-risk, low-income families and children.

PIRCs assist parents in communicating effectively with teachers, principals, counselors, administrators, and other school staff. PIRCs also help parents engage with the school as more active participants in the decision-making, development, implementation, and review of school improvement plans and other policies affecting students' learning.

Educational Professionals

PIRCs are required to work hand-in-hand with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and State and Federal Programs to provide information and resources to parents on parental involvement from early childhood through high school. PIRCs also work with these agencies to foster the implementation of parental involvement activities that are required through Title I.

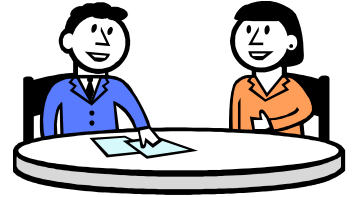


How Do PIRCs Serve Parents and Schools?

PIRCs have many priorities and objectives. One driving priority is to provide technical assistance to families and educational agencies in order to improve student achievement for all students within their state. PIRCs accomplish this through:

Communication

PIRCs serve as a channel between parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and other school staff in order to foster partnerships. Projects assist parents to communicate effectively with teachers, principals, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel; and help parents become active participants in the development, implementation, and review of school improvement plans.



Information

PIRCs are charged with providing technical assistance to families in order to help them understand the No Child Left Behind Act, including Accountability, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and the opportunities available to their children through Public School Choice and Supplemental Education Services (SES). To provide this information, PIRCs develop and disseminate accurate, timely, and parent friendly materials and offer numerous workshops and conference presentations across the state. Additionally, projects generally develop resource materials and provide information about high quality family involvement programs to families, schools, school districts, and others through conferences, workshops, and dissemination of materials. Projects generally include a focus on serving parents of low-income, minority, and Limited English Proficient (LEP) children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.

In New Mexico

The New Mexico PIRC assists schools with the implementation of No Child Left Behind parent involvement requirements, the requirements of New Mexico HB 212, and the implementation of the New Mexico Toolkit. The NM PIRC assists families in becoming true partners with schools in the implementation of the above items in order to improve student achievement.

We encourage you to contact Parents Reaching Out (1-800-524-5176). Our PIRC staff members are ready to help families and schools build partnerships to help every child succeed in school. Our workshops, which focus on NCLB and family involvement based on the Epstein Model, provide that spark to get everyone involved in the Action Team process for school improvement. Our *Did You Know* fact sheets and *Family Connections* series help families and educators make informed decisions that make a difference for our children.

“Did You Know...?” fact sheets are developed by Parents Reaching Out in collaboration with the New Mexico Public Education Department under a grant from the US Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement. Views expressed do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education and should not be assumed to be an endorsement by the Federal Government.