



BUREAU OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Bureau of Family and Community Outreach provides resources, training, recognition, and technical assistance for parents, volunteers, schools and communities to support families in making choices that will promote a high quality education for their children.

➤ **ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS FOR 2013-14:**

Dropout Prevention and Academic Intervention- The Office of Dropout Prevention provides technical assistance, strategies and resources to assist students, schools, parents and community organizations throughout the state of Florida. Our efforts ensure students have access to innovative programs which improve the quality of education options available to enhance students' opportunities for access, advancement, and achievement.

Performance-Based Exit Option (formerly GED Exit Option)- An alternative route to graduation for eligible students who may not graduate with their cohort group because of credit deficiency, low grade point average, or being overage for the grade. The program is not an option for early exit, it is designed to help students who fall behind graduate with their kindergarten cohorts and receive a State of Florida High School Performance-Based Diploma.

Parent Involvement- Provide technical assistance to schools, school districts, and other eligible entities receiving federal funding. In addition, information, guidance and clarification on parental rights, responsibilities and opportunities under Title I No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as it relates to parent involvement will be provided. A statewide parent involvement plan has been developed.

Safe Schools- Assists school districts and schools in their substance abuse and prevention efforts for school-based substance abuse and violence prevention programs in K-12. The Office of Safe Schools serves to promote and support safe learning environments by addressing issues of student safety and academic success on state, district and school levels. Schools that implement school safety measures, drug prevention programs, and positive school climate that promote caring relationships either directly or indirectly facilitate rising student academic achievement.

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) - Title IV, Part B- The purpose of the 21st CCLC program is to provide federal funds to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school hours or when school is not in session. These services support student learning and development and may include: tutoring/mentoring, homework help, and academic enrichment, such as hands-on science or computer technology programs. Other activities may include community service opportunities, as well as music, arts, sports and cultural enrichment. In addition, 21st CCLC programs offer literacy and other educational services to the families of participating students. Florida's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) serve over 75,000 students and over 13,000 family members in the state of Florida.

The Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act (1002.23, Florida Statutes)- This law was created to provide parents with specific information about their child's educational progress and promote family and community involvement. Each school year districts are required to develop and distribute a parent resource guide which gives parents information about their school district. The Bureau of Family and Community Outreach provides technical assistance to districts to ensure compliance.

Faith and Community-Based Outreach/Governor's Strengthening Families Initiative- To provide technical assistance, resources and services promoting family and community involvement within faith and community-based organizations. This program currently has 1,021 community & faith-based partners throughout the state who assist with local and state education initiatives.

➤ **RECOGNITION PROGRAMS:**

Commissioner's Business Recognition Awards- Awarded to worthy business partners for their commitment to improving the academic performance of Florida's public school students and for their outstanding public service.

5 Star School Awards- This award is presented annually to schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement.

Golden and Silver School Awards- Recognizes both public elementary and secondary schools with exemplary volunteer programs.

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS CONTINUED:

Outstanding School Volunteer Awards- A student, an adult and a senior volunteer from each of the five regions in Florida is honored for outstanding dedication and commitment.

Parent Involvement Awards- Recognizes projects that successfully engage parents in meaningful school-based programs.

➤ STATE GRANTS:

Best Buddies

Black Male College Explorers

Florida Mentoring Partnership

Girl Scouts of Florida

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Take Stock in Children

YMCA

Learning for Life

Boys and Girls Clubs

Academic Tourney

➤ FEDERAL GRANTS:

21st Century Community Learning Centers, Title IV, Part B

➤ RESOURCES:

Questions Parents Ask About Schools- This booklet contains questions and answers for parents or caregivers in the areas of getting ready for school, monitoring school work, helping with homework, working with schools and teachers, creating safe and drug-free schools, NCLB and Florida's Sunshine State Standards.

Sparkplugs for Parent Involvement- This booklet provides information on successful parent involvement programs throughout the state.

100 Tips for Parents- Tips that have been created to help parents or caregivers become more involved in their child's education.

Family Fun Reading Activities- Developed for families to promote reading. Contains fun, educational activities for families to do with their children at home, while traveling, and just about anywhere.

Fact Sheets for Families- Developed for families to summarize programs and services available for them, written in parent friendly language.

Florida Afterschool Network (FAN)- The Florida Afterschool Network provides unified leadership to advocate for the development, enhancement and sustainability of innovative, high quality afterschool programs and policies statewide. The Florida Department of Education is a key partner along with the Children's Services Councils of Florida, the Florida After School Alliance, The Children's Forum, and other stakeholders whose common thread is the desire for all children to have access to fun, engaging, and educational afterschool opportunities.

(Some parent resources and training materials are available in other languages)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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