



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 2008-09:**

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.

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 standard high school 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 and Drug-Free Schools-Title IV, Part A- Assists school districts and schools in their substance abuse and prevention efforts by providing funds, ensuring compliance and accountability, and providing technical assistance and training 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.

Title V- Title V, Part A- Innovative Education Program(s) provide funds to each district based on student enrollment and assists districts in promoting and implementing school improvement initiatives. The broad range of activities include technology activities related to the implementation of school-based reform efforts and programs to recruit, hire, and train highly qualified teachers. Currently, districts will receive funding until January 31, 2009, after this date, Title V funds will not be available to districts.

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 parent resource guide is due on **October 1st** of each fiscal year to the Department of Education. 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.

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

Governor's Mentoring Initiative

Professional Opportunities Program

For Students (POPS)

Girl Scouts of Florida

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Take Stock in Children

YMCA

Web-Based Instruction

Learning for Life

Boys and Girls Clubs

Academic Journey

FEDERAL GRANTS:

Florida Learn and Serve

Innovative Programs, Title V, Part A

Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Title IV, Part A

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

➤ **PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS:**

Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference- This conference is a collaborative effort to address issues relating to the disproportionate number of African-Americans who are under the supervision of the criminal justice system. Focal points include plenary sessions, luncheons and break-out sessions for both adults and teens, and a teens "listening summit." Numerous crime prevention program models that are transferable to other communities is highlighted.

➤ **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. **Fact Sheets** are available on topics such as, **Dropout Prevention, Family and School Partnership for Student Achievement Act, FCAT, FCAT for High School Juniors & Seniors, Families Building Better Readers (FBBR), Sunshine Connections, Different Levels of Parent Involvement (DLOPI), and State Grants.**

Parent resources and training materials are available in other languages (Some translations are in the process)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
Florida Department of Education
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 544
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Phone: 850-245-0847

Fax: 850-245-0849

<http://www.fldoe.org>

<http://www.fldoe.org/family>



Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner
Florida Department of Education



Joseph Davis, Chief
Bureau of Family & Community Outreach