



NJDOE News

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For Release: August 9, 2004

NJDOE to Co-Host the Delaware Valley Parent Empowerment Fair

The New Jersey Department of Education will co-host the Delaware Valley Parent Empowerment Fair on Saturday, Aug. 14 at the Penn's Landing Great Plaza Pier in Philadelphia. The fair gives parents in the greater Philadelphia area the opportunity to learn as much as possible about being a presence in their children's educational lives.

"We are so very pleased to join the Delaware and Pennsylvania Departments of Education and others in co-hosting an event which allows parents to remain as visible and involved as possible as their children grow in school," Commissioner of Education William L. Librera said. "A good home leads to a solid educational foundation. An involved parent gives a child an even better opportunity to succeed."

The fair, also sponsored by the Pennsylvania Parent Information & Resource Center (PA PIRC) and WDAS Radio, will feature children's activities and games, including: storytelling, clowns, face painting, a scavenger hunt and dunking booths. Attendance is free and open to the public. The fair is from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The event will feature up to 100 information booths, informational villages, a children's literary pavilion, workshops and expert-led panel discussions, including one titled, "The Bill Cosby Debate: Parents in the Hot Seat."

The day will emphasize how to take charge of a child's educational career and will cover the following topics: Understanding School Choice, Supplemental Educational Services (Free Tutoring), State Standards and Assessments, Parent Involvement and Scientifically Based Research.

Confirmed booth registrants include: Parents Anonymous of Pennsylvania, the Black Alliance for Educational Options, the Huntington Learning Center, the Temple University Laboratory for Student Success, the Parent Education Network, The Princeton Review, the Caring People Alliance, Child Care Information Services of Philadelphia, YMCA North Philadelphia Head Start, Cathedral of Praise Community Church YET (Youth Education for Tomorrow), and others.

In recognizing the importance of parent participation, an anonymous donor in the field of children's welfare has donated \$2,000, which will be distributed as four \$500 awards to the organizations who bring the most parents to the fair.

Michele Doughty, Title I state coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Education is assisting in the coordination of this fair and will facilitate a panel discussion on how states can assist districts, schools and parents with information related to NCLB parental involvement requirements.

Additional information and directions for New Jersey attendees are posted on the NJDOE web site at: <http://www.nj.gov/njded/title1/info/pef.shtml>.

For more information, call Michele Doughty at (609) 777-4668 or for vendor registration contact Stephanie Robinson at (215) 763-0883.