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## Family-School-Community Partnerships: Powerful Support for Student Success

**Karen Shanoski**  
Family-School-Community Partnership Project Manager  
Pennsylvania Parent Information and Resource Center (PA PIRC)

**Live, Online Session**  
**Wednesday, August 27, 2008**  
**2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

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## Presenter



### **Karen S. Shanoski**

Family-School-Community Partnerships Project Manager  
Pennsylvania Parent Information and Resource Center (PA PIRC)  
Center for Schools and Communities  
275 Grandview Ave., Suite 200  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Phone: 717-763-1661 ext. 139  
Phone: 610-539-7565

E-mail: [kshanoski@csc.csiu.org](mailto:kshanoski@csc.csiu.org)  
Website: [www.center-school.org/pa-pirc](http://www.center-school.org/pa-pirc)



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# Family-School-Community Partnerships: Powerful Support for Student Success

August 27, 2008

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## Welcome

- PA PIRC
- Research and Regulations
- Strengths Based Approach
- Family Engagement
- Family-School-Community Partnerships
- Shared Leadership Activities




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## PA PIRC Pennsylvania Parent Information and Resource Center

- Increase parents' understanding of NCLB
- Improve and expand programs for parents of preschool children
- Enhance parent and community engagement with schools
- Coordinate and disseminate information

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## PA PIRC Family Engagement Services

- Training and Technical Assistance
  - Quality early care and education providers
  - Family School Community Partnerships
    - Solid Foundation Strategies
- Family and School Resources

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## Research Findings about Impact of Family Involvement

- Learning at home leads to improved student achievement
- The more families are involved, the greater the impact
- Effort linked to student learning
- Connect community and family involvement through addressing needs and resources



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## No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Equal opportunity for a high-quality education  
Reach proficiency on challenging assessments

- Principles
  - Accountability for results
  - Local control and flexibility
  - Parental involvement and choice
  - Proven practices
- Requirements
  - Close the achievement gap
  - Proficiency in reading, math and science by 2014
  - Highly qualified teachers
  - State, district and school report cards

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## NCLB and Parent Involvement

Participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities



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## A Strengths Perspective

- Children are part of families.
- Families want what is best for their children.
- Children and families are resilient.
- Families have resources and supports.
- Families have rights and responsibilities.



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## A Strengths Approach

- Are family-centered
- Affirm cultural and economic differences and traditions
- Respond to community needs
- Mobilize formal and informal resources
- Emphasize prevention
- Promote accountability
- Provide seamless, comprehensive, flexible and easily understood network
- Build resiliency

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## Polling Question:

**Do you think that families find that services are delivered using a Strengths Based Approach?**

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## High Quality Programs

- Enrichment
  - Academic
  - Cultural
  - Recreational
- Partnerships with community
- School & program staff relationships
- Family involvement
- Evaluation

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## Elements of Parent Involvement

- Welcoming all families into the school community
- Communicating effectively
- Supporting student success
- Speaking up for every child
- Sharing power
- Collaborating with community

National PTA 2007

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## Parent Engagement Obstacles

- How to contribute
- Understanding the school and service systems
- Basic needs
- Child care
- Transportation
- Language



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## Reaching Out to Diverse Populations

- Welcome families
- Meet on their turf
- Once is not enough
- Use multiple communication channels
- Avoid reliance on a select group
- Take time to talk about beliefs



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## Partnerships

- Are an effective, productive way of working together
- Require open communication and careful listening
- Share responsibility and authority
- Involve accountability
- Celebrate success



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## Family and Community Connections with Schools

- Relationships
  - Trust and collaboration
- Recognition
  - Class and cultural differences; find common ground
- Involvement
  - Shared partnership with mutual accountability

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## Partners

### Schools

- Build capacity of parents
- Evaluate parent involvement policy and practices

### Families

- Provide learning opportunities for children
- Attend school functions and meetings

### Communities

- Bring resources to meet family needs
- Become champions for education system

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## Partner Practices

- Prepare partners
  - Capacity
- Focus on student achievement
  - Direct efforts
- Advocate for an inclusive educational culture
  - Trusting, respectful relationships

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## Benefits

- Students
  - Higher achievement
- Families
  - Parent involvement in learning
- Schools
  - Positive interactions, student achievement
- Community
  - Effective use of resources

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## Partnership Types

- Fortress Schools
- Come If We Call Schools
- Open Door Schools
- Partnership Schools

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## Comprehensive Framework with Action Team Approach

- Collaborative Action Teams (SEDL)
- School, Family and Community Partnerships (NNPS)
- Building Successful Partnerships (PTA)
- Solid Foundation (ADI)

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## Shared Leadership Processes

- Parents and Teachers Talking Together
- Asset Mapping
- Suggestion boxes and polls



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## Shared Leadership Activities

- Volunteer programs
- Student led conferences
- Family nights
  - Academic focus
  - Parent commitment focus



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## Continuous Learning

- Clarify purpose
- Involve members
- Communicate effectively
- Build capacity
- Focus on goals
- Evaluate and demonstrate data
- “Try Another Way”
- Celebrate

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## Summary

- Parent/family involvement critical
- Family-school-community partnerships link concerned stakeholders
- Together we build resiliency and success for students

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Karen Shanoski  
Family-School-Community Partnership  
Project Manager

[kshanoski@csc.csiu.org](mailto:kshanoski@csc.csiu.org)

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