

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, provides funds to states and school districts to support high-quality professional development programs based on scientific research. The aim of such programs is both to increase the number of highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals, and to help raise student achievement. AFT's Educational Research and Dissemination (ER&D) program is based on proven practice and meets the NCLB criteria for high-quality professional development.



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AFT'S PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM



A Union of Professionals
AFT Teachers

How does AFT's *School-Home Connection* course meet the guidelines of the NCLB Act of 2001?

THE SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION COURSE:

- is a 30- to 40-hour course based on scientific, seminal research that shares strategies from proven programs;
- is based on studies conducted by such reputable researchers as Oliver Moles, James Comer and Joyce Epstein.

Under the Title I Parental Involvement Program, NCLB requires that the school district use its funds "...to develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy."

THE SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION COURSE:

- provides the school district with a research-based framework on how to:
 - communicate with parents,
 - use Joyce Epstein's continuum of parental involvement to conduct a needs assessment,
 - develop a parental involvement program based on a needs assessment,
 - examine controllable home factors and societal changes that affect student achievement;
- helps school improvement teams with their planning; and
- shows how to utilize ongoing assessments to ensure that needs and goals are being met.



NCLB requires that the school district conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement program in improving the academic quality of the school.

THE SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION COURSE:

- suggests ways schools may pay special attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited-English proficiency, limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background;
- helps schools identify barriers to increased parental participation and shows how schools can build capacity for greater parental involvement;
- provides technical assistance to classroom practitioners in:
 - developing interactive homework,
 - explaining classroom work and grading systems,
 - communicating with students and parents about school policy and curriculum;
- demonstrates ways to evaluate the effectiveness of a parental involvement program; and
- shows schools how to embrace the community and communicate with parents as true stakeholders.

NCLB requires that the school district involve parents in decisions on the use of funds.

THE SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION COURSE:

- demonstrates ways to provide information to parents so that they can make informed decisions; and
- shows proven ways to involve the community and parents in the decision-making process.

What About Funding?

The school district must reserve at least 1 percent of its Title I allocation to support its Parental Involvement Programs.