

Introduction

Dear Parent*(s):

Did you know that the United States Congress recently passed a law that is designed to help all children succeed in school? This important law is the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

This brochure explains the key points about NCLB that are important to you as a parent, and require:

- Schools and districts to involve you and your child's education
- Public School Choice Options be provided when your child attends a school that has been identified for "School Improvement".
- Additional services that might be offered to your child if the school has been identified for "school improvement".
- Your right to ask and get information about the education of your child's teacher(s).
- The resources that might be offered to help your child do well in school

What Parents Need to Know about School Choice, Supplemental Education Services and Teacher Qualifications

This section provides information pertaining to other provisions in the NCLB act.

* Definition of Parent: The adults who play an important role in a child's family life. This could include: grandparent, aunt, uncle, step-parent, guardian or other adult.

School Choice:

A school must make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). If a school does not make AYP two years in a row, the district must offer you the option transferring your child(ren) to another public school in the district, or leaving them in their current school. Contact your district's Title I director or school principal if you think that your child is attending a school where choice needs to be an option.

Supplemental Services:

Your child may be eligible for Supplemental Education Services. These services may be available if your child is attending a school that has not made AYP for three years in a row. These services are offered before school, after school, or during the summer. There is no cost to you. The district is required to notify you of your child's eligibility to receive these extra services. Again, if you have questions, contact the Title I director or the school principal.

Teacher Qualifications:

You are able to get the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). School districts must give this information in a timely manner.

The school district will contact you each year if your child's teacher does not have a teaching license. They will also notify you if your child's teacher has an emergency certification.

Teacher Aide Qualifications:

As of January, 2002, the teacher aides that help with teaching must be qualified. They can be qualified in two ways: First, they could have two years of college or the equivalent of an Associates of Arts Degree. The other way to qualify, is to pass a test for knowledge of reading, writing, and mathematics. They must



be able to demonstrate their ability to help with instruction. To find out about the qualifications of the instructional aides, contact your child's school.

No Child Left Behind: Section 1118 - Parent Involvement

Your involvement in your child's education is critical. Schools need your help for the work they do. You can help your child by knowing and understanding what s/he is learning and needs to know.

One of the proven keys in helping your child is to form a partnership with the school. Section 1118 of NCLB assists you in forming this partnership by:

- Requiring a **district parent involvement policy** that explains how parents can become involved. This should also explain how the district would provide help to schools to improve the effectiveness and the involvement of parents.
- Requiring that an on-going meeting take place with you to request and give information. In these meetings you should find out about your child's performance, evaluations, and the school's curriculum. There should also be opportunities for you and other parents to ask questions and share experiences.
- Requiring schools to develop a plan for how you, the school, and your child will share the responsibility for ensuring that your child succeeds. The plan should include the method by which information will be distributed.

- Giving help to parents of children with disabilities or children who are English language learners so they can better use the resources of the school.
- Providing you with opportunities to understand the Colorado Content Standards, and the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP).

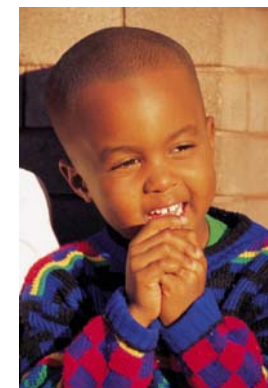
Resources to Help Parents Understand “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB)

Here are some suggestions you may use to access information:

- Talk with your child’s principal about NCLB. You can do this before or after parent/teacher conferences or call the principal to set up a time to meet.
- Ask if the school district has a Title I coordinator that you could schedule a time to meet with. Ask specific questions about how NCLB affects you and your son/daughter.
- Ask your PTA, PTO, or School Accountability Chairperson to have a parent night to explain the federal law to parents. Ask that an interpreter be present, if appropriate.
- Establish a calling tree to ask parents to attend the Parent Night.
- Visit any of the following websites. If you do not have access to a computer, go to your local library.
- The Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC) website: <http://www.cpirc.org> or their Family Support Line at 303-695-7996 metro-Denver or 1-877-695-7996 toll-free statewide.

- The Colorado Parent Teacher Association at 303-420-7820 or on their website: <http://www.copta.org>
- No Child Left Behind: <http://www.nclb.gov>
- National Center for Parent Involvement in Education: <http://ncpie.org>
- Spanish resources for parents: <http://www.zerotothree.org/magic/spanish>
- Successful Fatherhood Programs: http://cffpp.org/fatherhood_programs.html
- Colorado Department of Education: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/>

Parent Involvement in Education



Developed in collaboration with:



The Colorado Parent Teacher Association



The Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center

The “No Child Left Behind” Parent Involvement Committee



- **Do you know what “No Child Left Behind” means?**
- **Is it that important?**
- **Are you really involved in your son/daughter’s education?**



Colorado Department of Education
Consolidated Federal Programs