

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TRAINING

### Louisiana State Department of Education, Region I

#### Belle Chasse, Louisiana

The Louisiana Accountability System requires all schools to write School Improvement Plans to maximize student achievement. The Region I Education Service Center is responsible for providing training to school and district personnel on writing the School Improvement Plans. Region I incorporated school, family, and community partnerships training into the school improvement plan trainings to assist schools in understanding the roles partnerships play in increasing student learning. This practice aimed to clarify for schools and districts which family and community involvement activities were likely to reach which results for students, and dispel the myth that any family involvement activity will automatically raise student achievement.

The Region I Education Service Center team designed a training module, as part of the school improvement plan training, focused on family involvement activities that are directly related to student learning. For every strategy listed in the school improvement plan, the state requires that family involvement activities be included. During the training, participants divide into teams to brainstorm activities in their schools that involve families or communities. The team's reporter records the long list of activities. Participants then identify those activities that are directly related to student learning. After discussion of what is and is not related to student learning, the six types of family and community involvement are introduced. Participants then revisit their brainstormed lists to identify which type of involvement each activity addresses. In culmination, facilitators bring the whole group together for discussion and questions. From this approach, participants have gained a new understanding of the ways families and communities can be involved in education and which types of activities have a more direct relationship to student learning. The Region I Education Service Center team of trainers collects the plans written by participants to evaluate how family and community involvement activities have been incorporated meaningfully into school improvement plans.

The Region I training has targeted school district leaders, staff developers, Title I coordinators, principals, assistant principals, district assistant team leaders, school improvement teams, distinguished educators, teachers, Title I parent involvement liaisons, and parental involvement program specialists. This newly designed training module has helped these participants think of

activities beyond their current practices of family involvement that directly relate to student learning.

The next step for the Region I Education Services Center will be to identify and share successful practices going on throughout the region. The staff will also visit schools to observe the implementation of family and community involvement activities.

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