

The Parent Information Center of Delaware (PIC) is a (501)(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Delaware.

PIC administers Delaware's only Parent Training and Information (PTI) project as mandated under section 1474 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and funded by the US Department of Education-Office of Special Education Programs CFDA 84.328M-H328M0900-09 .

PIC also administers the Parental Information Resource Center for the State of Delaware as mandated under section 5563 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Funded by the US. Department of Education-Office of Parental Options and Innovations CFDA 84.310-U310A070006-09.

The programs and services that the PIC provides are statewide and focus on reaching families and children from birth to age 26 who are from racial, ethnic, or cultural minority backgrounds, economically disadvantaged, geographically or otherwise underserved.

Our Mission is: *To improve outcomes for all children, especially for children with disabilities, and their families by providing information, education and support.*

Phone: (302) 999-7394
Toll Free: (888) 547-4412
Fax: (302) 999-7637
Email: picofdel@picofdel.org
www.picofdel.org

(continued from previous page) discuss ESY early enough in the year to allow parents adequate time to exercise their right appeal the school's decision should they disagree.

STANDARD #6: Ability of Parents to Provide an Educational Structure at Home

For example, parents may be able to provide structured opportunities for their children to practice specific skills, with a computer software program, or access to community resources sufficient to maintain a critical skill. If parents are not able or willing to provide structured opportunities, or the involvement of school staff during the summer is necessary to offset the impact of regression and recoupment, then the IEP team may recommend ESY services.

STANDARD #7: Content and Duration of ESY Services

ESY services may extend over the summer, or just allow for contact with professionals, or assistance to parents in providing instruction to their children. The IEP must outline ESY services by the number of weeks, days per week, and hours per day that the student is to receive; including transportation and therapies if those services were provided to the student during the school year.

Adapted from: "Memo to Special Education Teachers" by Nissan B. Bar-Lev, Director of Special Education, Wisconsin 4/13/98

Family Leadership Academy Graduates Inaugural Class!

During the first weekend of June, thirty-eight parents and professionals came together to deepen their knowledge, advance their skills, and reach out to other advocates in our community. This dynamic group of individuals was the first graduating class of the Family Leadership Academy (FLA), PIC's new leadership training program.

The FLA consisted of two hands-on days of training, including workshops on advocacy, making action plans, and conflict resolution. Lt. Governor Matt Denn was the guest speaker, along with our panel of educational leaders, who all reinforced the importance of parent involvement with our kids.

PIC is proud both of our first class of graduates, and our staff for conducting such a rigorous training program. We were pleased to hear one parent say "PIC continues to inspire parents to advocate for their children whose futures depend on getting a good education." To hear that parents value our input and will go on to use it effectively, to us, demonstrates a job well done! We can't wait to watch our leaders grow and develop as true advocates in the Delaware educational community.

If you have interest in joining the Family Leadership Academy, please visit our website www.picofdel.org and look under the Leadership Training section. PIC will be hosting a second FLA in New Castle County and both an English and Spanish session in Sussex County. All three Academies will take place in October, 2010.

PIC's Newest Partnership!

PIC, the PTA, and the SPAC are joining forces!

PIC is excited to announce a new strategic partnership with the Delaware Parent Teacher Association and the Delaware State Parent Advisory Council! With a shared goal of helping parents become effective advocates for the best education for all children, this partnership was a natural fit for PIC.

Together, all three organizations will hold workshops and trainings on parent leadership and effectiveness, jointly host Parental Involvement Month in October 2010 and the PTA Convention in November 2010, and work together on parent involvement initiatives to ensure that state and federal programs are receiving valuable and useful parent



Family Leadership Academy participants and PIC Staff listen as Lt. Gov. Matt Denn discusses parent involvement in our schools.

input.

With this partnership, PIC is encouraging parents to consider joining their school's PTA or become a part of the SPAC to help lend a voice to the parent movement in our schools. Parents are a key piece of the educational puzzle, and the PTA and SPAC are great avenues to share your knowledge and make a difference for your kids!

framework for open dialogue about your child's learning. Write down questions you have for the fall parent-teacher conference.

4. Learn your child's grade level curriculum. Understanding what your child is learning is a key part of staying involved. The Department of Education has curriculum guides on their website (www.doe.k12.de.us).

5. Help foster a love a learning. Providing a stable homework routine and making schoolwork a priority can help set a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Set aside time each day to help your child with any schoolwork issues.

6. Uphold your child's health and well-being. Healthy children learn better, have fewer absences, behave better and form better relationships with peers. Check out: http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/school/back_to_school.html

Six Resolutions to Get Involved

Got Kids? Get Involved!

As kids head back to school, parents also need to refocus and prepare for another school year. How can you make this year better? Make a resolution to get involved; here are six ways to try:

1. Attend a school board meeting.

Disticts make decisions affecting your child's education at stakeholder meetings such as these; check your district's website to find out when and where meetings are held.

2. Join the PTA. The PTA exists so that parents can come together and collectively decide what is best for their school. Ask your school where you can sign up to participate.

3. Meet your child's teacher. Getting to know your child's teacher sets the

Save the Date.

Family Leadership Academy- NCC

October 23rd & 24th

The Family Leadership Academy is an engaging 2-day training session that prepares parents to become leaders in the Delaware School System.

Coming Soon! Family Leadership Academy- Sussex County

This training session will be offered in both English and Spanish. Call 1-877-547-4412 or check www.picofdel.org for dates and location!

New in August !

PIC announces a new workshop series for parents of children and youth with developmental disabilities based on the National Family Support and Advocacy Support and Training (FAST) project at the Pacer Center.

The Journey to Adulthood: What Parents Need to Know about Sexuality Getting and Keeping the First Job

Using the Power of a Personal Story: Skills for Effective Advocacy

Register online: www.picofdel.org/events or call 888 547-4412 to register.



Understanding the Race to the Top Grant in Delaware

What's in it for the state, schools, and districts

The Race to the Top grant that was awarded to Delaware this past Spring for the next four years brings about \$100 million in federal funds to our state. The purpose of this grant is to implement specific reforms in our public school system.

Although this is a lot of new money, the dollars must be used to meet very specific commitments as outlined in our application and address high priority areas identified by the U.S. Department of Education: World class standards and assessments, effective teachers and school leaders, turning around persistently low performing schools, and implementing a new statewide data system.

These funds are supplemental dollars of which 50% will go toward state level initiatives, intended to develop and strengthen our infrastructure for long term educational improvement.

The other 50% funds will go to local school districts and charter schools to implement the commitments made in the state's application. This local funding will be based on plans created by the districts/charters and approved by the state

Some key funding allocations include:

Adopting world class standards and assessments - \$5.9 million

- More rigorous standards and curriculum that better prepare Delaware students for college and the workplace

- A new student test, aligned to higher standards in reading, writing, and math
- Training for teachers to use student test results to strengthen instruction

- Funding for all 11th graders to take the SAT

- Advanced Placement Summer Institute for science and math teachers

Supporting effective teachers and school leaders- \$42.4 million

- World class training for principals and school leaders, along with alternative route certification for professionals interested in school leadership

- Recruitment incentives, retention bonuses, and residency programs for effective teachers and principals who work in high need schools

- Online marketing and application

tools to streamline teacher recruitment

- Coaches to help teachers use data to improve instruction

- Academic achievement awards for high performing schools

Turning around persistently low performing schools- \$8.2 million

- Intensive support for low achieving schools that benefit from stronger leadership, greater flexibility, and additional resources



PIRC Coordinator Tina Andrews and Parent Consultant Lilia Meredith prepare for a day of training.

Implementing a new statewide data system- \$7 million

- A robust and accessible data system that enables educators, policymakers, parents, and the public to easily monitor and support student and school performance

These are some of the major funding categories. The full range of commitments can be found in Delaware's Race to the Top application

<http://www.doe.state.de.us/rttt/default.shtml>

Achievement Matters!

The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League's Achievement Matters! after-school program is open to new enrollments for the 2010-2011 school year for grades 2nd to 8th. There are two types of eligibility criteria: (1) Second through eighth graders must attend a New Castle county school that receives Supplemental Education Services funding to qualify for Achievement Matters! supplemental services and (2) students in grades fifth through eighth residing in zip code areas 19801 and 19805 are eligible for the full range of Achievement Matters! year-round program services. Program benefits include homework club, computer technology, financial literacy, life skills, entrepreneurship, parenting education, experiential learning, meals and transportation. For an enrollment appointment, contact Javar Simpson, program manager, at (302) 622-4310 or JSimpson@mwul.org or Dionne Cornish, Special Project Coordinator, at (302) 622-4306 or DCornish@mwul.org.

Is Your Child Applying for College This Year?

Preparing for college can be a daunting task. So can paying for it! Start looking for scholarship opportunities early as deadlines can come early. Check out these sites for information about scholarships for your child.

- http://www.education.com/magazine/article/Universities_For_Students_Disabilities/
- <http://www.scholarships.com/>
- <http://usscholarshipguide.com/>
- <http://www.fastweb.com/>
- <http://www.usscholarshipguide.org/scholarship/student/disabled.html>



Family Leadership Academy raffle winners show off their prizes at the June event.

New Health Care Bill Affects Children with Disabilities

Confused about the new federal health care bill and what it means? Want more information on how a child with disabilities can no longer be denied health care beginning in September and how this will affect your family?

Log on to www.healthcare.gov to read explanations and get the latest news.



Presenter Hazel Cole discusses the six steps to becoming an effective advocate at a workshop.

October is Bullying Prevention Month

Kids Against Bullying is a Web site created for elementary school children. It is a creative and informative resource to educate students about bullying prevention and provide methods to respond to bullying situations. The site features an animated cast of characters, information, celebrity videos, Webisodes, games, animation, contest and other activities. Parents and professionals will find helpful tips, intervention strategies, and resources for use at home or school.

<http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/>

Back to School Tips for ESL Families

Parents and teachers can find helpful information about teaching English language learners to start the year off right. Visit <http://www.colorincolorado.org/calendar/backtoschool> for reading tip sheets, classroom activity ideas, and cultural toolkits.



Parent Information Center of Delaware, Inc.
5570 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19808
www.picofdel.org

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For information on how to make a tax deductible gift or to become a PIC member, log onto www.picofdel.org and select DONATE.

If you wish to volunteer with PIC, please contact us by phone at (888) 547-4412 or by email at picofdel@picofdel.org.

Donation Levels

\$1000 Benefactor

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PIC is a United Way of DE write in: #725 State Employee Charitable Campaign #70088

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The Link

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Summer is Over So Why Talk About ESY Now?

Eligibility for Extended School Year (ESY) services, at no cost to parents, is determined by the child's Individual Education Program (IEP) team. ESY as part of the IEP is not simply an extension of time in school, nor is it required for every student. There are no comprehensive eligibility criteria in the law, and only general standards have been mentioned by the courts for including ESY in the student's IEP program.

STANDARD #1: No Single Criterion

STANDARD #2: Regression/Recoupment

Regression refers to a decline in knowledge and resulting from an interruption in education; recoupment is the amount of time it takes a student to regain the prior year level of functioning. For some students, the skill regression during the summer months, coupled with their limited recoupment ability, is such that their basic educational needs cannot be met during the regular school year. In determining eligibility for ESY, the IEP team must consider not only retrospective data but also predictive data on recoupment abilities. If recoupment for a child is longer than nine weeks it is likely that the child will need ESY in order to

secure the minimum benefits of a free and appropriate public education in the fall.

STANDARD #3: Emerging Skills

If the child is in a critical stage of developing a skill and such a skill is not completely acquired and mastered, it is likely that the current level of acquisition will be lost due to the interruption of summer vacation.

STANDARD #4: Nature and Severity of Child's Disability

Children with severe disabilities are more likely to be involved in ESY programs, since their regression may be more significant, and their recoupment abilities may extend over longer time.

STANDARD # 5: Notice and Timing

ESY is to be considered at each annual IEP meeting and parents must acknowledge their receipt of this information. The school must document the discussion and the decision reached after consideration of ESY eligibility. Fall is a good time to gauge the recoupment time for a child so as to request ESY for next summer, if it is beyond the norm. It is also important to (continued on following page...)