



**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Community Learning and Partnerships Team**

Website: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/fscp/index.html>

Family involvement is essential for successful students and strong schools. The Community Learning and Partnerships Team is committed to strengthening and supporting the ties that link schools to families and communities.

We offer:

- **Online resources**
- **An annual spring Parent Leadership Workshop**, in conjunction with DPI Title I, Special Education, and student services staff and other partners, to help foster connections among schools and families
- **The Wisconsin link to the National Network of Partnership Schools** at Johns Hopkins University
- **AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers** who have worked in over 100 schools statewide since 1998 to help develop partnership programs tied to school improvement

For more information, visit the webpage above, or contact Jane Grinde, team director, at 608-266-9356 or jane.grinde@dpi.wi.gov

REACH Family Involvement Team (FIT) activities are funded in part with U.S. Department of Education Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Visit the REACH Website: www.reachwi.org



**Family Involvement Resources
for Schools Implementing the REACH Framework**

The REACH initiative promotes *proactive collaborative* planning, instruction and assessment in Wisconsin schools. Our goal is to reduce barriers to learning and enable the success of *all* students—particularly those most likely to experience school failure or to be identified as having a disability.

The REACH Family Involvement Team (FIT) supports a better understanding of how families and schools can work together to meet student needs as well as to support parents on REACH district and school leadership teams. Details about each of the organizations on the FIT Team and contact information are included in this brochure. We hope to work with you!

**Family Involvement Team Members Include Representatives
From The Following Agencies:**

- Cooperative Educational Service Agency #1 (CESA 1)
- Parents Plus, Inc.
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
 - ◊ Community Learning and Partnerships Team
 - ◊ Special Education Team
- Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS)
- Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)

Family involvement support is available from these agencies. Our collaborative team develops project related technical assistance materials, as well as workshops and networking opportunities offered through the REACH Regional Collaborative Centers and at locations in the community.

The Wisconsin PTA is a strong, active association of almost 30,000 members that advocates for all children and youth in areas such as legislation/child advocacy, health and safety, education, cultural arts, substance abuse, special needs, and parenting.

Our state's PTA is the link between local units and the national PTA, the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the United States. A not for profit association of families, educators, students, and other citizens active in their schools and communities, PTA is a leader in reminding our nation of its obligations to children.

Guided by the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships (Welcoming All Families, Communicating Effectively, Supporting Student Success, Speaking Up for Every Child, Sharing Power and Collaborating with Community), our program can help school staff and parents learn more about:

- how to increase **student success** with parent involvement
- how the **No Child Left Behind Act** involves parents
- how **busy parents** can still be involved with their child's education

For more information, visit the Wisconsin PTA website at www.wisconsinpta.org or contact the Wisconsin State PTA Office at 608-244-1455 or wi_office@pta.org to find out how a PTA presenter can visit your parent group meeting, school, or place of business.

Parents Plus, Inc. is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to support the development of positive parenting skills and to increase parent involvement in Wisconsin schools focused on improving student achievement.

Parents Plus offers three nationally-respected programs that address issues of poverty, parent involvement and early childhood education. We conduct school and community workshops in **Ruby Payne's "Framework for Understanding Poverty"** and in **Joyce Epstein's "Six Keys for Parental Involvement."** A third, highly-effective program, **Parents as Teachers**, equips parents with skills to help young children learn and grow. In addition, Parents Plus presents workshops on a variety of topics, from parent leadership to understanding human diversity.

Parents Plus staff is certified in the three programs listed above. There is no charge for our workshops.

For additional information, visit the Parents Plus website at <http://www.parentspluswi.org/> or contact us at Parents Plus, Inc., 4906 W. Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, WI 53216; 414-449-4767 Ext. 164.

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative

(WSPEI) was established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to enable all parents of children with disabilities to participate meaningfully and equally on IEP (Individual Education Plan) teams and in school advisory roles and functions. WSPEI has developed a statewide network of parents, schools, and agencies to support families in their children's education and to help educators form positive, reciprocal relationships with families and the community.

Each CESA in the state has a WSPEI Parent Liaison Coordinator available to help your school increase family participation. Coordinators provide:

- **Support:** supporting positive relationships
- **Resources:** providing resources, agency contacts and information on special education, parenting, and disabilities
- **Networking:** supporting the collaboration of parents, educators, and community agencies to increase family involvement
- **Education:** connecting parents and school districts to learning and training opportunities

For more information, visit the WSPEI website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/parent.html> or call 1-877-844-4925.

Wisconsin FACETS is the federally-funded Parent Training and Information Center for Wisconsin. WI FACETS supports families of children with special needs by providing workshops, technical support and parent leadership development. WI FACETS can help your school increase family involvement through workshops and consultation services.

Professional Development Workshops for school staff and parents include:

- How Family Friendly Are We?
- Parents and Teachers in Problem-Solving
- Role of the Parent on Leadership Teams
- Facing Our Fears: Communication and Collaboration
- Six Types of Family Involvement (Epstein)

Consultation: WI FACETS staff can provide support to parent representatives on REACH School Leadership Teams. Staff, who represents many ethnic backgrounds, can help your team review current family involvement practices and brainstorm the "next steps" for becoming more responsive to families.

For more information, visit the WI FACETS website at: www.wifacets.org or call 1-877-374-0511