

THE PARENTS NETWORK FOR BETTER EDUCATION

The Parents Network for Better Education (Parent Consortium-SE) unites the significant parent populations of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina in an effort that will provide unparalleled information and training about parents' rights. The goals of this project are to reach a critical mass of parents with the tools they need to understand their state's accountability and their opportunities for public school choice and services under NCLB and to generate more choices among the parents reached that supplements the work of school districts and states. An estimated 250,000 parents will be assisted by the following programs:

- Specialized, multi-lingual, personalized information sessions, including one-on-one counseling, education training events at familiar community centers, pre-schools and institutions frequented by the parents in each community.
- Easy-to-understand and easy to use parent guides and brochures that address the state's accountability system, explain why accountability is important, directs parents, by zip code, to schools and options available to them in their community and directs them to national information and networks;
- Ongoing follow up and leadership by local organizations will monitor parents' successes in exercising their No Child Left Behind rights and seek to address grievances and obstacles that may arise in the process;
- Unique access to a wide variety of parent organizations, community groups and pre-school partners to answer ongoing questions about how to interpret No Child Left Behind, the state's accountability requirements and how to make choices.

The Parents Network for Better Education will assist primarily (but not exclusively) parents in economically distressed communities in finding and interpreting information about their state's school accountability system and parental rights under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and help them exercise those rights.

The project will be managed by The Center for Education Reform, a Washington, DC, based research and advocacy group, in partnership with four major statewide groups that focus on parents and public school choices: The South Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools, The Florida Consortium of Charter Schools, Georgia Charter Schools Association, Inc., and NC School Choice, Inc.

The evaluation of this project will be ongoing and informed both by parent representatives as well as external, independent evaluators. Materials will be tested in communities before being rolled-out throughout the project. Parents will be surveyed regularly, as well. The number of parents served will be catalogued with breakdowns into the number of limited-Language proficient parents served, and parents with special needs.

For additional information on how you can become a partner in this effort please contact:

THE PARENTS NETWORK FOR BETTER EDUCATION (SOUTH CAROLINA)

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