

**Title I District Advisory Council
Staff Response to 2009 Recommendations**

1. **Recommendation:** Continue to provide guidance and support for parents on how to help their children practice reading, writing, and math skills at home.

Response: Engaging families in children's learning has a positive impact on student achievement. Title I staff will continue to serve as a resource for schools as they support parent involvement and assist schools in providing opportunities for parents to obtain strategies and activities that they can use at home to help their children achieve academic success.

2. **Recommendation:** Use the District Advisory Council (DAC) meetings to provide more information to DAC representatives about family involvement resources available within Fairfax County Public Schools.

Response: Fairfax County Public Schools has a wealth of resources available for use in strengthening family involvement, in particular those available through Family and School Partnerships as well as the Title I Office and the Parent Resource Center. Becoming more familiar with those resources would enable Title I schools to more readily access them and make greater use of the resources as they work to strengthen family involvement. The Title I office staff will arrange to bring a variety of resources and personnel to each meeting for review and discussion.

3. **Recommendation:** Provide support for schools in developing or adopting family literacy programs for grades 3-6.

Response: Title I schools currently provide numerous opportunities for parents to learn how to support reading with their young beginning readers. As children progress, parents need new information and strategies on how to best provide reading support for older children. The Title I Office will research and share with schools and DAC members additional programs and resources to support parents of upper grade students as they strive to help their children become strong readers.

4. **Recommendation:** Have Title I information for school web sites translated into other languages.

Response: The *No Child Left Behind* law requires schools to ensure that "information ...is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand." We recommend that each Title I school work with FCPS Language Services to have their specific school based Title I documents and information translated in languages appropriate for their school community. This translated information should then be posted on each school's individual web site along with the English documents currently there.

5. **Recommendation:** Provide resources and information to schools to assist them in strengthening relationships with parents as an important support for student achievement.

Response: Fairfax County Schools is implementing the use of *Best Practices for Teaching and Learning* to improve instruction and close the achievement gap. One focus in these practices is, "Build collaborative and respectful relationships with students, colleagues, and

parents.” Noted researcher Ron Ferguson has highlighted the importance of relationships in creating a positive student-centered learning environment. Relationships with parents are also critical for maintaining a strong partnership between school and home. The Title I Office staff will work with the District Advisory Council to compile and share a list of strategies that can be used by schools to create positive relationships with parents to promote family involvement and strengthen student achievement.