

Bronx Educational Alliance Parents Resource/Outreach Center
Post-Conference Issues
Saturday, November 2, 2002
United Federation of Teachers Dial-A-Teacher Conference
Sunday, November 3, 2002
"Making the Grade" Parent Conference on SES
Host - Bronx Borough President's Office at Bronx Community College

November 3, 2002 was the first Parent Conference held by the Bronx Borough President's Office. The most significant declaration rose during the plenary session when the Borough President gave an indication that this was not the last Parent Conference the Borough would host. The few parents that were notified less than two weeks prior to the event felt, if numbers were the priority goal "poor planning results in piss poor performance". If the goal was to engage in intelligent dialog about our children making the grade and what was necessary to do that then the right minds were in the breakout rooms. Whereas, the UFT Dial-A-Teacher conference attracted 2600 teachers, parents, and children to the Sheraton Hotel and gave no opportunity for parents to speak, get solutions to real problems and very little crowd control.

For the first time since the No Child Left Behind legislation was rolled out parent leaders had the opportunity to share their community concerns based on the impact services would have on their community residents and how the information has been reaching families. Also providers and vendors received the same opportunity.

Sports and Arts Foundation felt that the way the Board of Education was rolling out parental choice to shop for tutoring services seemed to be headed toward failure. After working with the Bd. Of Ed the representative said he was concerned that a conspiracy was undermining the purpose of Supplemental Educational Services.

Advocates for Children wanted to take a more proactive approach in asking can the vendors make copies of the forms and complete them with parents and have them brought to the schools. She was met by a response about the NCLBA legislation and told "If the parent doesn't ASK for it they don't get it".

Parents must be notified that their child needs extra help.

Parents are to be given a form to be completed by the vendor/provider as an agreement and then returned to the District representative.

The parent is to bring the letter, the service provider information, the last years report card or summer school report card and a completed free lunch form.

The parent must do this on or before November 15, 2002

First Community School District 9, Superintendent Mims team hosted a professional Development week for parent liaisons. Secondly, Linda Williams stated that she was concerned about the way the notification letters were sent home and requested that a provision be made allocating funds for certified or express mail to ensure families entitled to the services receive them.

Thirdly, she wanted to know whether parents eligible for services would receive them if completing the "Free Lunch" forms there were different income levels for children in one family with different "baby daddies"? How many forms are in the bottom of the child's book bag? Finally, if a parent loses the form would they be given another one? She was surprised that there was a list of NCLB liaisons and questioned their commitment to parent involvement. She was concerned that middle school parents were given a school calendar that didn't show correctly the days of parent/teacher conference and that it will be held after the deadline dates.

One parent brought to the CSD 10 Presidents Council in her district and who attended the UFT conference said her concern was that at a parent association meeting the principal submitted one vendor name to parents and asked them to consider it (SCORE). She asked is this what choice means?

Channel Thirteen Adult and Continuing Education was proactive informing parents to bring a copy of the report card to prove their child is eligible to complete the form at the very least. She also supported other services free through media.

A **Kaplan** provider was very impressed with the ways parents were informed at our breakout session and shared his conversations with the Bronx High School Division as very promising. He said he was very impressed by the proactive approach by the Superintendent's representative, by parents and students at the High School fair and the open houses.

A **VISED** representative observed the session and was available to answer questions.

A Lehman College undergraduate education student, A. Johnson, participating in a course, Children in Families, Communities and Schools in Sociocultural Contexts was assigned to scribe the questions to help the facilitator address each concern.

During the afternoon session regarding the steps for shopping for a provider/vendor one parent mentioned that her child received a letter and that her school services level 0-1 but she said there was a form that asked questions about military. She was concerned that her child was asked to be in the military and he is a special needs parent so, what should she say? Parents received an opportunity to go shopping during the cookie and milk break.

Information given to parents included *a sample letter, information by NYSD, BD of ED, The After-school Corporation, approved providers/vendors, Title 1, list of District Liaisons, A provider/vendor Fair and ASPIRA of New York.* To keep on top of the current developments of NCLB parents were given the following resources: **1)The NYS Education web-site; 2)The Board of Education web-site; 3)The NCLB web-site; 4) The Achiever publication; 5)Invitation to NSF Project PARTNERS in MST Parent Academy on-line response**

A future step for parents that may not be eligible for services included engaging in the on-line PowerPoint presentation and participating in the **Regents Recommendation Response form on November 9, 2002.**

Parents met me in the hallway to ask whether they could meet at Lehman College for future discussions and updates regarding NCLB?