

Family Involvement and Student Achievement

The Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed at Risk published *Neighborhood and School Influences on the Family Life and Mathematics Performance of Eighth-Grade Students* (2001), a report that explores how neighborhoods and schools can influence the mathematics achievement of eighth grade students. www.csos.jhu.edu/crespar/techReports/Report54.pdf.

Produced by the Educational Testing Service, *Parsing the Achievement Gap: Baselines for Tracking Progress* (2004) synthesizes a large body of research on 14 factors associated with educational achievement disaggregated by race/ethnicity or income level, including parent participation, reading to young children, amount of television viewing, and parent availability. www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/PICPARSING.pdf.

The National Center for Family and Community Connections at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) conducts annual reviews of family–school–community partnerships based on its extensive database called the Connection Collection. www.sedl.org/connections/research-syntheses.html.

Emerging Issues in School, Family, & Community Connections (2001), the first in a series of annual research syntheses, it highlights issues and promising new directions in the field. It identifies the need for conceptual clarification and outcome measurement, advances the research base in terms of theoretical frameworks and methodologies, and focuses on critical research areas.

A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement (2002) summarizes the research evidence that families have a major influence on student achievement.

Diversity: School, Family, and Community Connections (2003) synthesizes research on the role of families on students' academic achievement among diverse and low-income populations.

Readiness: School, Family, and Community Connections (2004) examines the contextual factors associated with children's school readiness and explores the effectiveness of a variety of early childhood or preschool interventions that include a family or community focus.

For information about family involvement in Alabama, contact the Alabama PIRC at 334-567-2252 or visit us online at www.alabamaparentcenter.com.

Taking a Closer Look: A Guide to Online Resources on Family Involvement was compiled by Heather B. Weiss, Kelly Faughnan, Margaret Caspe, Cassandra Wolos, M. Elena Lopez, and Holly Kreider, Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE), Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP), September 2005. For more information visit the HFRP site at <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/index.html>