



Oregon PIRC has recently been involved with seven major activities through collaborations with 21 statewide partners.

These collaborations have helped the partnering organizations fulfill their goals, maximize resources, and realize much greater impacts to the parents and children they serve.

These partnerships have helped create a statewide network and a community of parents for public education.

### **EXAMPLES AND PROJECTS THAT ARE PART OF THE STATEWIDE NETWORK OF OFFERINGS**

#### **EDUCATE AND INSPIRE: OREGON STATEWIDE PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

The Oregon State PIRC staff has been collaborating with the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Migrant Education Services Center, and the Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality (SKCE) on a parent leadership training for the state of Oregon that is targeted to meet the needs of limited English proficiency (LEP), low-income, minority, immigrant/migrant, and Title I parents.

#### **COACHING FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY (CFEE/EQUITY FELLOWS)**

While Oregon's student demographics are changing dramatically, the demographics for Oregon's teachers are remaining steady, less representative of the students they serve. The Oregon State PIRC felt it imperative to work with school staff to be more culturally responsive and to assist them in working more equitably with diverse families. PIRC has worked on equity/diversity issues in many school districts by partnering with Employers for Education Excellence, Northwest Small Schools, the Bay Area Coalition for Equitable Schools, the Oregon School Board Association, and the Oregon Leadership Network.

#### **OREGON DISABILITY MEGA CONFERENCE**

The Oregon PIRC collaborated with others on the first annual Oregon Disability MEGA Conference in order to educate, empower, inspire, and connect all people involved in the field of disabilities – while bringing people, organizations, service providers, and

Collaboration | CPSS and Oregon PIRC

agencies together to learn from each other and encourage a statewide dialogue on important shared issues. Partners included the Oregon Department of Education, Northwest Autism Foundation, Oregon Parent Training and Information Center (PTI), Oregon State Independent Living Council, the ARC of Oregon, and others.

### **OREGON PTA**

The Oregon PIRC has been collaborating with the Oregon Parent Teacher Association (PTA) on their yearly parent leadership conference. PIRC has supplied resources for the event and also supported a breakout session around Closing the Achievement Gap. To obtain additional information from parents in the state, PIRC also provided an online survey that was distributed through the Oregon PTA listserv.

### **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/FAMILIES LEARNING TOGETHER**

With a focus on student achievement, the Oregon PIRC, in collaboration with Community and Parents for Public Schools (CPPS) in Portland and ESL staff from Portland Public Schools, helped to develop and standardize a curriculum for teaching parents how to help their children (in grades 3-5) develop literacy skills at home. The original curriculum was written in English and translated into Spanish. In order to have the training presented to people in their language and by someone from their own cultural background, the collaborators worked together to translate the curriculum into Russian, Vietnamese, and Somali.

During 2008-2009, this parent curriculum was further refined and called “Families Learning Together” (FLT) Workshops. These workshops focus on ideas and strategies for parents to support their children’s learning at home and to help parents help their children to acquire habits around reading, writing, and conversation. Parents learn how to spark a love of learning within their child, to support their homework, and to connect the activities at home with what the kids are doing in schools.

To take the FLT workshops to the next level, Oregon PIRC staff members worked with CPPS and PPS to design a two-day training of trainers session to support ELL teachers and parents who were interested in providing the FLT training workshops to other parents in Portland Public Schools.