

Dear Educators:

During the recent budget battles in Washington, funds for the Parent Information Resource Centers (PIRC) nation-wide were cut. Included in this drastic move, was funding for Vermont's PIRC (VTPIRC) an organization many of our Title I schools and SUs have worked with successfully over the past few years. Rather than close, VTPIRC has reconfigured in order to continue to serve Vermont's educational community, especially Title I receiving schools.

Recently many of you had the opportunity to meet Lindsay DesLauriers, VTPIRC's capable and enthusiastic project manager, at our annual CFP Spring Meeting in Killington. She and her staff are excited about the prospect of continuing the critical work they've begun with many of you and growing new relationships with others.

VTPIRC's day-to-day work includes:

- Evaluating current parent involvement initiatives;
- Assisting in meeting Title I parent involvement requirements;
- Training in research-based programs and services; and
- Assisting in implementing innovative meaningful family engagement strategies.

Memberships and other fees will be offered for schools and supervisory unions (SU) using a sliding scale tied to the amount of Title I funding received by the SU for FY12. All services are customized to meet local needs.

Meaningful parent engagement is **required** by schools receiving Title I funds, as you well know. Single Districts and SUs that receive more than \$500,000 in Title I **must spend** at least 1% of their Title I allocation on parent involvement activities. For all other Title I schools and LEAs, parent involvement remains a required activity, although a specific set-aside is not contained in law. A review of recent monitoring activities, both in-state and nationally, show that many, if not most, LEAs visited have been cited for issues surrounding parent involvement/parent engagement.

With that in mind, *Mary Mulloy and I strongly urge you to consider investing Title I funds*, especially those set-aside for the express purpose of parent involvement, to work with VTPIRC in the coming school year.

In the near future, Ms. DesLauriers will send a letter to CFP Team Leaders with information about the new VTPIRC model and the price schedule for FY12. Should you have questions about how this fits in with your Title I parent involvement initiatives, please call Mary Mulloy at 802.828-3067 or me at 802.828-5156.

Sincerely,

David Baroudi, State Director
Title I, Parts A & D