

OHIO PIRC TRANSITION DOCUMENT: SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

OHIO PIRC: GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is going on with the Ohio PIRC?

Effective September 30, 2011, the Ohio PIRC will cease all operations. The U.S. Department of Education, the primary funder for the past 17 years, did not recommend PIRC as a single line-item in the federal budget going forward.

What happens to the 24-hour Ohio PIRC phone line and website?

The phone will be shut off on September 30, 2011. The website will stay until March 30, 2012, as a resource for families in Ohio.

What is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)?

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed in 1965 as a part of the "War on Poverty." [ESEA](#) is an extensive statute that funds primary and secondary education, while explicitly forbidding the establishment of a national curriculum.^[1] It also emphasizes equal access to education and establishes high standards and accountability.^[2] In addition, the bill aims to shorten the achievement gaps between students by providing each child with fair and equal opportunities to achieve an exceptional education.

In 2002, Congress amended ESEA and reauthorized it as the [No Child Left Behind Act](#) (NCLB). The language is as follows: *No Child Left Behind, SEC. 1118. Parental Involvement.*

(g) INFORMATION FROM PARENTAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTERS (PIRC)-In a State where a parental information and resource center is established to provide training, information, and support to parents and individuals who work with local parents, local educational agencies, and schools receiving assistance under this part, each local educational agency or school that receives assistance under this part and is located in the State shall assist parents and parental organizations by informing such parents and organizations of the existence and purpose of such centers

In March 2010, the Obama administration released its blueprint for revising NCLB and returning to the original name-Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which would ask states to adopt college- and career-ready standards and reward schools for producing dramatic gains in student achievement.

What happens to the resources that usually get distributed through Ohio PIRC?

We expect that all of our resources will be distributed before the grant period ends.

I can't get all the printed resources I want for my school or parent group – what should I do?

Sorry, with federal funding streams going away, we don't know of any place to refer you to get the types of free resources you could receive through PIRC. There are a number of great ideas on the Internet and the PIRC website (www.ohiopirc.org) until March 2012 and the ODE's website (www.education.ohio.gov) *Just for Families* (lower part of the home page) or the *Learning Support* (tab at the top of the home page) as of this date (September 2011)-soon to be revised.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY SCHOOLS

I work for a school and need more information related to public education.

First, ask your child's classroom teacher, building principal, district superintendent, local school board president and school board members first. If you don't get satisfactory answers, then you may contact the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), 25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183, Toll Free Call 1-877-644-6338. The Call Center will direct your call to the person in the Department who can best response to your question.

I need help understanding Title I, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and what I need to do to be in compliance. When PIRC goes away, who can I contact?

Call the Ohio Department of Education, toll free 1-877-644-6338, and ask for the Office of Federal Programs or call direct 1-614-466-4161 and ask to speak to an educational consultant.

I work for a school and could use some help figuring out how to engage parents in schools.

Call the Ohio Department of Education, toll free 1-877-644-6338, and ask for the Office of Federal Programs or call direct 1-614-466-4161 and ask to speak to Ann Bohman, an Educational Consultant. She is responsible for federal requirements compliance (especially Title I) involving parent involvement. Ann can be reached by telephone [614-728-1640] or email ann.bohman@ode.state.ohio.us.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

I am a parent or community member and want more information on where to get resources or ideas on better connecting with schools.

There are a number of places to start. First and foremost, call your school and ask, "what can I do to help out?" If that doesn't work, look for organizations in your area such as these:

- **The Ohio PTA** is an association which provides resources that encourages parents and communities to be a more integral part of children's education, health, welfare and safety.
Address: 40 Northwoods Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235
Telephone: 1-614-781-6344
Email: office@ohiopta.org
Website: www.ohiopta.org
- **Parents for Public Schools of Greater Cincinnati** is part of a national organization of community based chapters that advocates for excellence in public schools. Our chapter partners with parents and schools throughout Ohio to increase student achievement.
Address: 1821 Summit Rd., Suite 201, Cincinnati, OH 45237
Telephone: 1-513-751-5437 or 1-866-51-5234
Email: execasst@ppsgc.org
Website: www.ppsgc.org
- **The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities** is a statewide, nonprofit organization that serves families of infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities in Ohio, and agencies who provide services to them. A button at the top page of the website allows you to translate the material into more than 40 languages. If you need one-to-one assistance, please call.
Address: 165 W. Center, Ste. 302, Marion, OH 43302
Telephone: 1-740-382-5452 Ext. 20 or 1-800-374-2806 Ext. 20
Email: ocecd@ocecd.org