



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

JACK O'CONNELL
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 23, 2009

Dear County and District Superintendents and Direct-funded Charter School Administrators:

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

The California Department of Education (CDE) is dedicated to closing the achievement gap in districts and schools statewide. As part of that effort, the P-16 Council made specific recommendations. One of them, Recommendation 3, was to "Develop Partnerships to Close the Achievement Gap."

Historically, schools have relied on their own resources to create and sustain partnerships. The time has come to fully integrate research-based school, family, and community partnerships with other critical strategies to ensure the success of all of our students. Therefore, the CDE is partnering with the California State Action Team for Partnerships (State ATP), a collaboration of representatives from the CDE, federal, state, and regional projects/organizations, as well as California's two Parent Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs), the California State Parent Teacher Association (PTA), school district representatives, community agencies, and non-profit organizations. Please see the enclosure for information on the State ATP.

The State ATP *California State Action Plan for School, Family, and Community Partnerships (State APP)* outlines a vision and plan for a statewide infrastructure that will support productive school, family, and community partnerships directly linked to student learning from preschool through high school. It also included a support plan designed to assist schools develop and implement school, family, and community partnerships at three levels: state, regional, and local. It incorporates technical assistance and professional development, and is fully aligned with the State Board of Education (SBE) parent involvement policy, P-16 Council recommendations, and research-based promising practices. You can find the *State APP* on the California Comprehensive Center at WestEd Parent Involvement Web page at <http://www.cacompcenter.org/cs/cacc/view/nclb/11> (Outside Source).

I encourage each school district, county office of education, and charter school to strengthen partnerships that are specifically designed to close the achievement gap and support academic achievement and school success for all students.

I am encouraging each:

- **County superintendent** to identify a Parent/Family Involvement contact person to be part of a regional partnerships network to encourage collaboration among county and district personnel with parent/family involvement responsibilities. Please send an e-mail with "Parent/Family Involvement Contact Person" in the subject line, and include your

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county name, contact person name, and contact person contact information by e-mail to PARENTALINVOLVEMENT@cde.ca.gov.

- **District superintendent and direct-funded charter school administrator** to verify that the Parent/Family Involvement contact person on the Consolidated Application contact page is your designee to receive information and provide leadership in parental involvement and partnerships.

Additionally, I encourage county and district superintendents and direct-funded charter school administrators to:

- Use research-based approaches for integrating parent involvement programs into the Single Plan for Student Achievement per California *Education Code* sections 11502 and 64001. You can find information about parent involvement on the CDE Parent/Family Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/pf/pf/>.
- Work with California's PIRCs and the California State PTA for additional support to facilitate partnerships in your counties and districts. You can find Information on each of these resources on the:
 - California Association for Bilingual Education PIRC 1 Project INSPIRE Web page at http://www.bilingualeducation.org/programs_parent.php (Outside Source).
 - California PIRC 2 Web site at <http://www.calpirc.org/> (Outside Source).
 - California State PTA Web site at <http://www.capta.org/> (Outside Source).
- Share this letter with your school board members, parent involvement coordinators, schools and families in your districts, and community partners.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Rosie Thomas, Administrator, Title I Accountability and Partnerships Office, by phone at 916-319-0917 or by e-mail at rthomas@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



JACK O'CONNELL

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Enclosure

cc: Categorical Program Directors
District Parent Involvement Contacts

The California State Action Team for Partnerships

Who We Are

- California Department of Education Title I Accountability and Partnerships Office
- West Regional Equity Network, University of Arizona
- California Parent Information and Resource Centers
- California State Parent Teacher Association
- California Parent Center, San Diego State University Research Foundation
- California Alliance for School, Family and Community Partnerships
- School district representatives
- Parent representatives from community-based organizations

Why We Formed This Collaboration

For all students to succeed, we must move beyond “business as usual” and shift our thinking about how to leverage all resources, human and fiscal, available for students. There is a need for a systemic approach to organizing productive partnerships among those responsible for the education of students. Increasing the awareness of this shared responsibility among educators, families and the school communities across the state is vital to integrating school and non-school supports to ensure the success of all our children. Family and community involvement are most powerful when they are linked to student learning. We believe that the adoption of a flexible, research-based partnerships model with an organized approach to school, family, and community involvement can promote individual student success throughout every community in California. Together, schools, families, and communities can move the California educational system toward a culture that will help every student succeed.

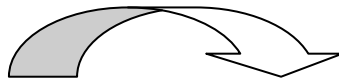
Our Mission

Increase student success, close the achievement gap, and increase graduation rates by mobilizing a statewide parent and community involvement strategy through partnerships.

Why a Statewide Plan Is Needed

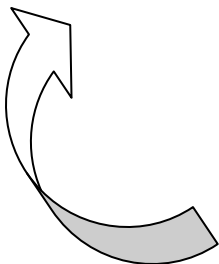
The California State Action Team for Partnerships (State ATP) has developed the *California State Action Plan for School, Family, and Community Partnerships (State APP)* that shifts the involvement of families and community from a project and activities approach to a systematic plan for partnerships that directly support schools' instructional strategies and academic goals for students from prekindergarten through grade twelve.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOL, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS STATEWIDE, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL FOCUS



Statewide Focus: Increase awareness of infrastructure and resources for partnerships; adopt a statewide Framework for School, Family, and Community Partnerships; provide a sample research-based Partnerships Component for the Single Plan for Student Achievement; pilot partnerships programs for schools, and showcase successful district partnerships.

Regional Focus: Create and sustain a Regional Partnerships Network (11 superintendents' regions) each co-sponsored by a Regional Partnerships Network Director from a statewide agency and a Local Partnerships Network Director from a local county office or district; provide leadership and disseminate effective school, family, and community information and resources.



Local Focus: Provide resources and professional development to help schools integrate partnerships into the Single Plan for Student Achievement, the Framework for School, Family, and Community Partnerships, and districts' annual evaluation of parental involvement programs.

