



## **Tip Sheet**

# **No Child Left Behind**

## **What Parents Need to Know About**

### **School-Parent Compact**

*No Child Left Behind is the new education plan that was signed into law by President Bush in January of 2002. It is designed to improve student achievement, and decrease the achievement gap. The law includes a number of important opportunities for parents to be involved with the schools. These Tip Sheets from Parents Plus are designed to help parents understand their rights under the law.*

Every school that receives Title I funds from the federal government must have a school-parent compact (agreement), developed with and approved by parents of participating **Title I children**, that describes how educators and parents will work together to improve student achievement. This compact should explain how the school will meet the needs of students served by Title I so that they will do well and should clearly state the specific responsibilities of parents, school staff and students. A school can receive Title I funds if a certain percentage of its students are from low-income families. Ask your principal if your school receives Title I funds.

**What you can do:** Ask to see your school's parent compact. Make sure it covers what is needed to help children served by Title I to achieve state standards. The compact should address the following:

- How the school will help Title I students learn.
  - Will children get extra help as soon as they need it? What kind of help?
  - Is the goal of this help to make sure they catch up fully with their classmates?
    - The law says that every child should be able to meet state standards by the year 2014.
- How will the school continue to provide teachers with new information, ongoing training and new resources to help students?
  - The school must say how it will ensure that it is providing high-quality curriculum and instruction to all students.
- How teachers will inform parents about their children's progress and show families how to help their children at home.
  - Examples of things parents can do at home might include providing a good space where children can study and do homework, turning off the TV, and making sure students get enough sleep and attend school every day.
  - The law says elementary schools must hold parent teacher conferences at least once a year, and that teachers must make frequent reports to parents on their children's progress.
- How parents and teachers will work together.
  - How and when can parents talk to teachers or the principal or come to school to observe and volunteer?
    - The law says that parents must have reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities.

- How can parents be involved in decision-making at the school, for example, serving on the school improvement team or the school council.
  - Parents need to be told about the opportunities to serve on these teams or councils.
  
- What actions and supports parents and teachers think are needed to improve achievement.
  - Families may need information, materials and encouragement to help their students with complex subjects, such as math or science.
  - What supports will the school offer and how will families use that support?

***If your school does not have a parent compact, ask your principal what the plans are for developing one. Offer to help write it with input from other parents.***

For more information about *No Child Left Behind* visit the following web sites:

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/esea/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education's *No Child Left Behind* web site at <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

Call Parents Plus toll free at 877 384-1769 or visit our web site at <http://www.parentspluswi.org/>