

Trends in Family Involvement

The Family Strengthening Policy Center of the National Human Services Assembly produces policy briefs that highlight promising and proven practices in the field of family strengthening. Its policy brief *Parental Involvement in Education* (2004) describes the benefits of parent involvement, implementation challenges, and resources for practitioners. www.nassembly.org/fspc/practice/practices.html

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) at the U.S. Department of Education provides a statistical portrait of several trends in family involvement in education. Trainings for researchers who want to learn how to better use National Household Education Surveys (NHES) and Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS) data sets are listed at nces.ed.gov/conferences. Below are recent reports from NCES.

Million Homeschooled Students in the United States in 2003 (2004) uses data from the 2003 NHES to show that the number of home-schooled students in the United States and the proportion of the student population they represent has increased since 1999. The brief also discusses parents' motivation for home schooling. nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2004115

Fathers' and Mothers' Involvement in Their Children's Schools by Family Type and Resident Status (2001) analyzes data from the 1996 NHES to address questions about parents' levels of involvement with their children's schools and the relationship between involvement and student outcomes. nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001032

Efforts by Public K-8 Schools to Involve Parents in Children's Education: Do School and Parent Reports Agree? (2001) compares parents' and educators' perspectives on how schools involve parents in their children's education and how parents respond to these opportunities for involvement. This report first uses data from the Parent and Family Involvement in Education/Civic Involvement Survey of the 1996 NHES and the Survey on Family and School Partnerships in Public Schools. nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2001076

For information about family involvement in Alabama, contact the Alabama PIRC at 334-567-2252 or visit us online at www.alabamaparentcenter.com.

Taking a Closer Look: A Guide to Online Resources on Family Involvement was compiled by [Heather B. Weiss](#), Kelly Faughnan, [Margaret Caspe](#), Cassandra Wolos, M. Elena Lopez, and [Holly Kreider](#), Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE), Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP), September 2005.