

Maine State PIRC Workshops

Managing the Mystery of Mathematics:

For many of us, mathematics may be an intimidating world of unknown rules & formulas, or a strange new language filled with unfamiliar terms, or even a complicated puzzle that makes you feel like you are missing the necessary pieces. Before we allow ourselves to become overwhelmed, anxious and defeated, we should take a few moments to try to demystify the mysteries of math! This workshop won't teach anyone how to be a math expert, however it will help remove several misconceptions while giving parents helpful hint, tools and strategies to help their child become more successful in their math studies.

This workshop is directed towards parents & families who may have struggling math student or parents who simply want to provide additional support & encouragement.

Primary Audience: Parents and Guardians

Length: 1.5 hours

The No Child Left Behind Act From A to Z: What Parents Need to Know

This workshop offers a "primer" on the No Child Left Behind Act and how it is changing education. We'll work together to look at the history of the law, define standards and accountability, and learn how these federal regulations impact schools and students here in Maine. Our discussion will also include up-to-date information on Maine's Learning Results and graduation requirements. From student testing to school choice, this workshop covers everything you ever wanted to know about NCLB...but were afraid to ask.

Primary Audience: Parents, Educators, and Professionals

Length: 2 hours

Home School Communication: What's All the Commotion?

This workshop helps teachers understand different approaches to home-school communication and how these shape relationships with families.

At the end of the workshop, teachers will:

- Be aware of different communication approaches
- Recognize how different communication approaches can strengthen or weaken teacher-family relations
- Gain practice in employing different communication approaches under varied circumstances

Primary Audience: Educators

Length: 1.5 hours

The Parent-Teacher Partnership: Preparing for Conferences

The practice of parent-teacher conferences can be intimidating for some or filled with unidentified expectations for others. Once the conference has taken place, participants may be disappointed in the results, having unanswered questions or concerns with no plan of action going forward. As is true with anything, being prepared ahead of time can make the experience less stressful and more effective for all. This workshop is designed to help parents and guardians make the most of parent-teacher conferences by:

- Identifying questions and concerns they may have about their child's education.
- Introducing tools useful to effectively communicate those questions & concerns.
- Suggesting ways to gain & share additional insight in their child's educational experience.
- Creating a format for designing a personal action plan as a partner in their child's education.

Primary Audience: Parents and Guardians

Length: 1.5 hours

Parent Involvement:

Meeting Compliance and Building Meaningful Partnerships

Parent involvement in Title I schools is more than a good idea...it's required. This workshop is designed to help schools meet the requirements of the law AND create parent involvement programs that work. Using Section 1118 as a framework, we'll discuss how to build upon current strengths and update parent involvement policies. From federal law to local best practices, this workshop is designed to educate both parents and teachers on the possibilities of parent involvement in Title I schools.

Primary Audience: Parents, Educators, and Professionals

Length: 2 hours

Goodbye High School, Hello College:

Survival of the Freshman

This workshop offers guidance for parents of students entering their freshman year of College, or Post-Secondary education. Choosing a school is difficult enough, but what can parents do to help their children after they have been accepted to a school? The information in this workshop can help to answer that question! Topics include easing the transition to college, budgeting basics, keeping in touch, helping through homesickness, and noticing signs of a struggling student and more.

Primary Audience: Parents and Guardians

Length of time: 1.5 hours

Homework Tips for Parents

This information was developed by the U.S. Department of Education to assist parents, caregivers and teachers in understanding the importance of homework and the role that parental involvement plays in assigning homework.

Primary Audience: Parents, Educators, and professionals

Length: 2 hours

Coming soon:

[Building Blocks for Reading: A Parents Guide to Nurturing Literacy](#)

[Transition into Kindergarten: Parent & Child Readiness](#)

OVERVIEW OF MAINE PARENT FEDERATION

Would you like to learn more about Maine Parent Federation and the services and supports available to parents and providers? Since it was first formed in 1984, Maine Parent Federation has grown from a single project to multiple projects, and from a single office to a central office with several regional offices. The MPF Overview is a great way to keep up on everything that MPF is doing to support families in Maine and to discover ways that our staff can support you. To find out more about how our services can benefit you or your organization, call to request this presentation. (There is no charge for this presentation.)

SCHEDULING A WORKSHOP

To find out if a workshop is scheduled in a location near you, please contact the MPF office. If you would like to schedule a workshop(s) for your group or organization, we will make every effort to accommodate your request. Because the workshop schedule fills quickly, we recommend that you contact MPF at least thirty days in advance. For more information, call 1-800-870-7746 (ME) or (207) 623-2144.

WORKSHOP FEES

For parents: There is no charge for parents or parent groups.

For agencies, provider or professionals groups who request a workshop: There is a minimum \$50.00 fee unless otherwise noted.

DONATIONS

As a grant-funded, statewide non-profit agency providing education, support, advocacy and training on behalf of all families with children as well as the professionals who support families, MPF welcomes donations at whatever level is affordable.