

Handbook on Family and Community Engagement and Family Engagement Regional Specialists

In collaboration with the U. S. Department of Education's Title I Office, the Academic Development Institute and Center on Innovation & Improvement have produced a *Handbook on Family and Community Engagement*. The *Handbook* is available free for download at www.families-schools.org or may be purchased from Information Age Publishing at www.infoagepub.com.

The *Handbook* is designed to guide state, district, and school Title I personnel in providing high-quality, research-based family and community engagement programs and experiences. Thirty-six experts on a range of topics contributed to the *Handbook*. Each chapter provides grounding in research and practical action principles for the field. A concluding chapter lists specific recommended practices for the state, district, and school. The *Handbook* is edited by Sam Redding, Marilyn Murphy, and Pam Sheley.

In her introduction to the *Handbook*, Helen Westmoreland writes:

This *Handbook* offers a broad definition of family and community engagement, seen through the lens of scholars and practitioners with a wide-ranging set of perspectives on why and how families, communities, and schools collaborate with one another. Taken together, the chapters in this *Handbook* sketch out the components of a theory of change for the family and community engagement field. What is family and community engagement ultimately in service of? What do families know and do differently when this work is successful? What educational policies and practices will help us realize these changes?

To support the use of the *Handbook* by states, districts, and schools, the U. S. Department of Education's Regional Comprehensive Centers have each designated a Family Engagement Regional Specialist. These Specialists will work through the State Education Agencies in their 16 regions to introduce a series of webinars for districts and schools covering the *Handbook* topics. The webinars will also be posted at www.families-schools.org for use by local groups.

The Family Engagement Regional Specialists are:

Alaska Regional Comprehensive Center	Jerry Schoenberger
Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center	Anita Deck
California Regional Comprehensive Center	Maria Paredes
Florida and Islands Comprehensive Center	John Lockwood
Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center	Frank DeRosa
Great Lakes West Comprehensive Center	Caroline Wentzel
Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center	Janet Brown
Mid-Continent Comprehensive Center	Sharon Brooks
New England Comprehensive Center	Joe Trunk
New York Comprehensive Center	Crystal Francis
North Central Comprehensive Center	Jane Hill
Northwest Comprehensive Center	Deborah Davis
Pacific Comprehensive Center	Canisius Filibert
Southeast Comprehensive Center	Sally Wade
Southwest Comprehensive Center	Maria Paredes
Texas Comprehensive Center	Marion Baldwin