

Pointers For Parents

You Can Make A Difference In Your Child's School

(NAPSA)—When parents get involved with their child's school, children do better and stay in school longer.

That's one of the key findings of a study conducted for the Los Angeles Annenberg Metropolitan Project. The study on parental involvement also found that when a critical mass of parents is involved, the entire school can improve.

One way for parents to get involved is to take an active role in monitoring a public school's performance on standardized tests. A new Web site makes that easier.

The Web site, www.SchoolResults.org, offers information on school performance. When a parent goes to the Web site, a map of the U.S. will appear on the screen.

Some states are gray, some are yellow, and others are blue in color. The blue states are the ones for which data is already available. The yellow states will have data available within a month. The gray states will have data soon.

If the school you want information on is located in a blue state, click on the state and then type in the name of the public school or school district.

Within seconds, standardized test scores for that school or district will appear. It will also be possible to see data about how well that school or district is doing in reading and math compared to other schools or districts in the state and whether they are improving over past years' scores.

This information is available thanks to the No Child Left Behind law, which requires states



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to give the public access to this information.

Every month, information from new states will be added. Currently, information from Arizona, Arkansas, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington State, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Florida, Virginia and Minnesota is available. Data for all the schools and school districts in every state in the country will be up on the Web site by the end of 2004.

The site is sponsored by The Broad Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. The data is programmed by Standard & Poor's and Just for the Kids.

Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation, sees parental and citizen involvement with public schools as a key civic responsibility. Says Broad, "Ensuring achievement in America's urban public schools and closing achievement gaps between income and ethnic groups are the most important civil rights issues of the new century."

To learn more about ways to get involved in your local school, visit www.broadfoundation.org or www.ed.gov.