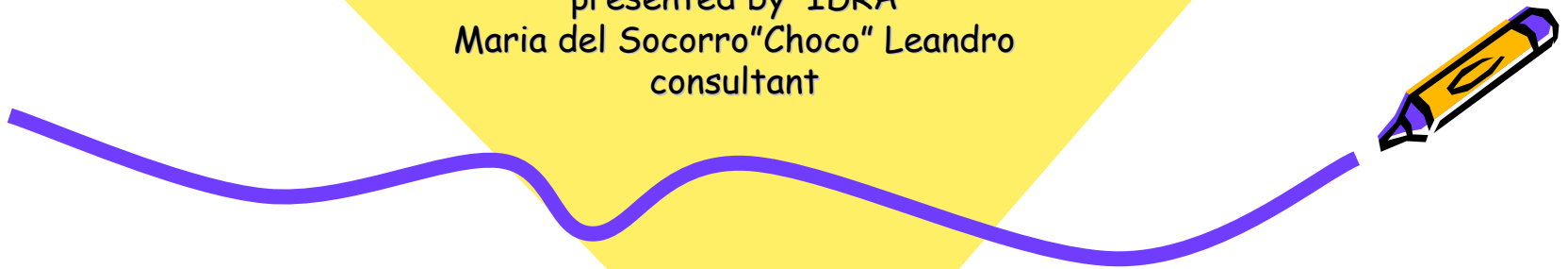




# SCHOOL REACHING OUT TO PARENTS:

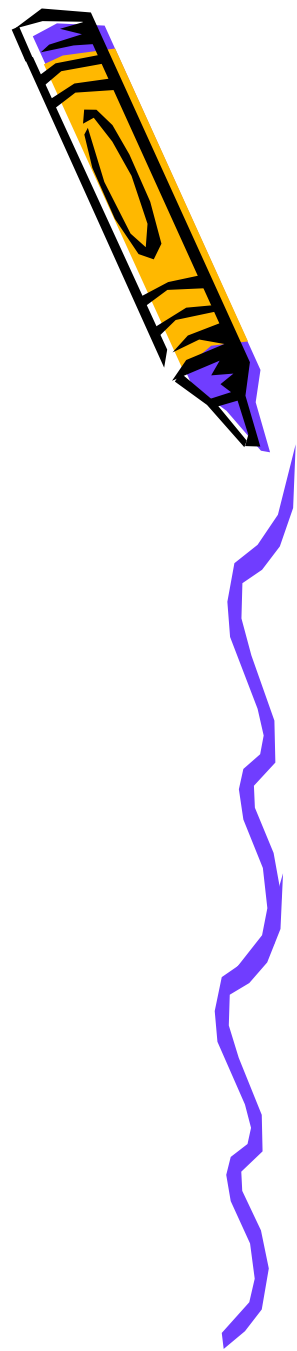
**Creating a Positive Link to Parents at Home**

presented by IDRA  
Maria del Socorro "Choco" Leandro  
consultant



# AGENDA

- Welcome and introductions
- Warm-up activity
- Review Objectives
- What the Research says
- Creating Parent Partnership
- Closure/Discussion
- Evaluation



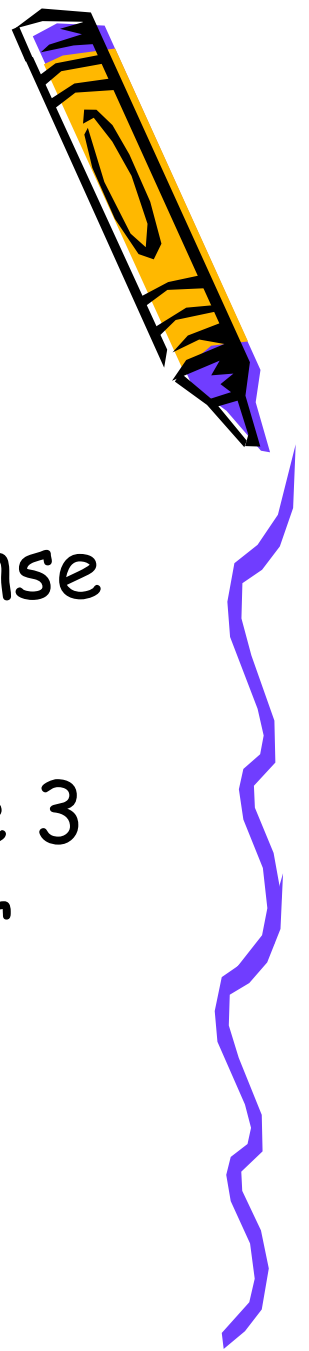
# Objectives

- To review the TEA Parent Involvement Initiative
- To review the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements
- To encourage school, family and community partnerships to improve academic performance



# 3 QUESTION ACTIVITY

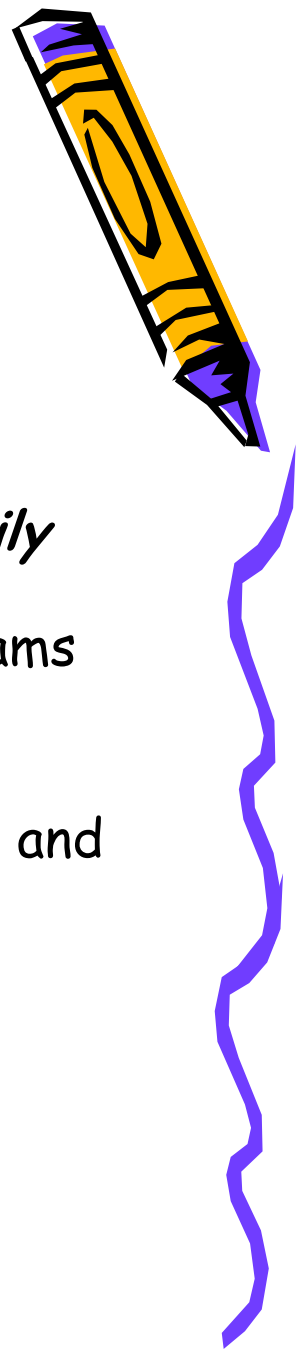
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- Read the question on the wall
- Use the "post-it" to write a response and place under the question
- Follow the same procedure for the 3 questions until you write an answer for each



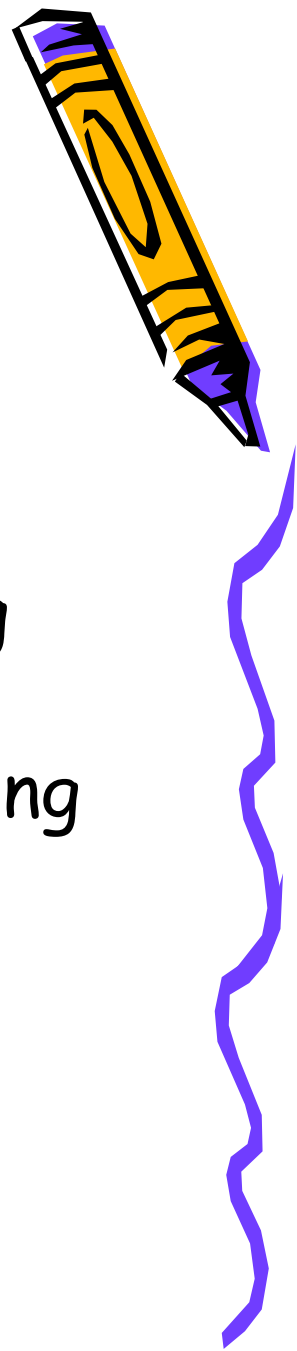
# TEA Parent Involvement Initiative: Six Focus Areas



- Help young children enter school ready for learning
- *Provide assistance to service centers, districts and campuses in their effort to enhance parent and family involvement*
- Encouragement of voluntary parenting education programs
- Promote adult and family literacy
- Foster successful school-to-work transitions
- Coordinate resources that serve the needs of students and families



# Families, Communities and Schools Working Together



- Schools get better and students get a higher quality education
- Parents play a critical role in developing their children's learning habits
- Parents are the essential link in improving schools
- Make all school contact friendly and welcoming

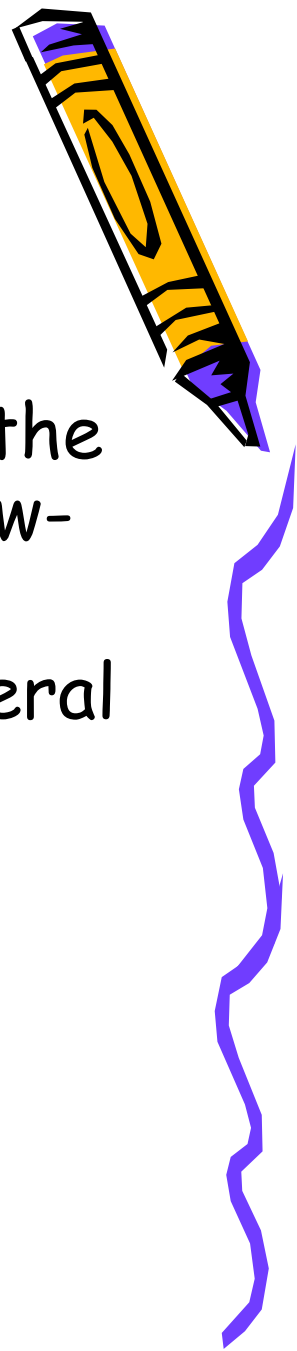


# No Child Left Behind

- The main focus of NCLB is to improve the academic achievement of students in low-performing schools.

To achieve this, the act focuses on several elements including:

- State standards...
- Highly qualified teachers, principals, etc
- Rewards for schools that meet or exceed expectations...



# NCLB (cont.)

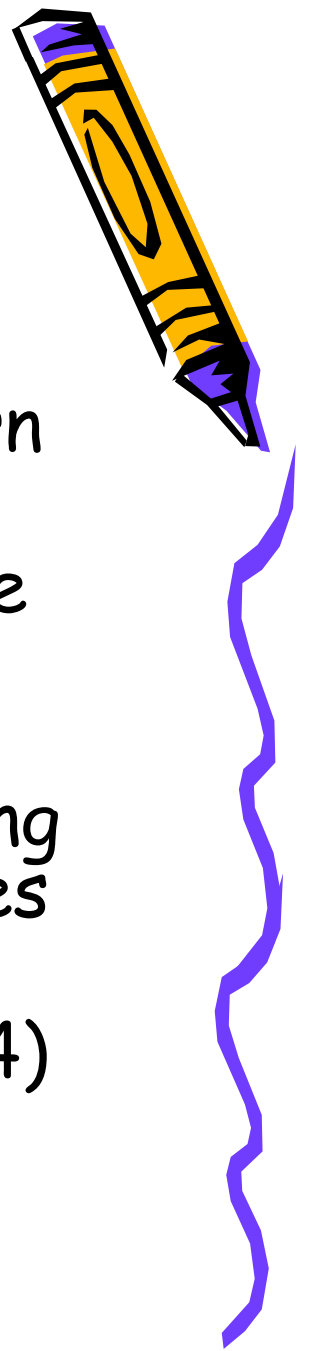


- Identification of schools that fall behind...
- Funding for schools that need special assistance...
- *Parent and Community Involvement*
- Parental Choice & supplemental services





# School and Home Connections Research



- Parents want to help their children learn more (Moles, 1983)
- Schools should support families to guide their children from pre-school to high school
- Providing workshops to parents in helping at home with math and reading increases the students scores

(Henderson & Berla, 1994)

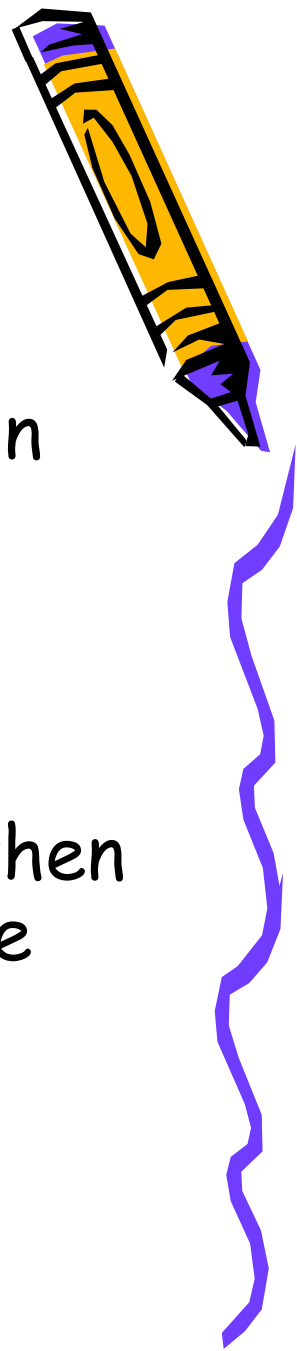


# Research (cont.)

- Strategies of community organizing are openly focused on building low-income families' power and skills
- Strategies which encourage two-way communication through personal contacts, are especially important



# What to do and When to do it

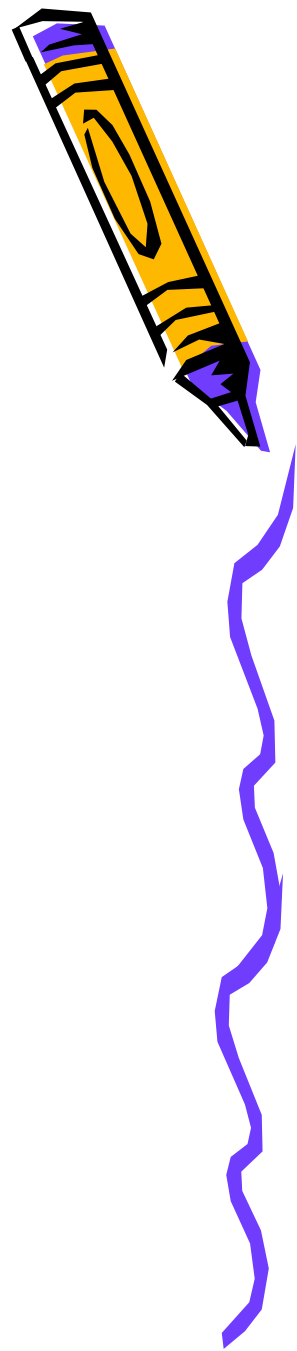


- If schools want parents to participate in the schools, it is important to provide ongoing opportunities to hear their concerns and comments as well as providing them information (SWEDL)
- Parents will get involved in the school when they believe they can make a difference (The Harwood Group)



# How and When (cont.)

- Ongoing
- Outreach
- Title I funds
- Translation of information
- Child-care cost
- Open-House; Welcome; etc.



# How to (cont.)



- Traditional Ways of Parent Involvement
- Match Interest and Talents
- Expand beyond the usually involved parents
- Create a climate conducive to meaningful participation
- Make parents truly "partners in learning"



# Open Communication Between School and Families



- Send home *positive* words of praise and encouragement
- Jot a quick *personal* note on letters
- Be *proactive* and keep parents informed
- Form a *partnership* with parents and encourage them to respond to your notes

(Laboratory for Student Success (LSS), *Partnerships: A Guide for Teachers*;  
By Patrikakou, Weissberk, Hancock, 1997.)



# Closure/Discussion

- What I learned
- Next Steps
- Evaluation

