



# Newsletter

January/February 2010  
Vol. 1 Issue 1

## A New York State Summit for Family Engagement in Education

[www.samepagesummit.org](http://www.samepagesummit.org)

### Introducing the On the Same Page Summit Newsletter!

On the Same Page is a collaborative effort to support systemic change in the New York State Educational System through strategic dialogue and action on family engagement as a catalyst for closing the achievement gap in Title I schools. This initiative is a partnership between EPIC-Every Person Influences Children, NYS PIRC Parental Information and Resource Centers, New York State PTA and New York State Department of Education.

As we begin preparing for our next Summit, our Steering Committee wanted to provide those of you who have been active in our efforts, another means to stay, "on the same page." While many of you are taking advantage of the communication tools on the website ([www.samepagesummit.org](http://www.samepagesummit.org)), this newsletter can reach and be shared with those who have not yet had that opportunity.

Please feel free to share this information with your teachers, school administrators, parents, community members and others who you know are interested in helping improve family engagement in education!

We appreciate your dedication to this movement. We encourage you to continue the progress you have made with your Action Team and hope to see you all again at the Summit this Fall!

#### *What's in this newsletter?*

Welcome

Website highlights

Action Team News

In the next newsletter find:

Updates from Action Teams

Summit Dates/Location



Did you know...

**"Schools would have to spend \$1,000 more per pupil to reap the same gains that an involved parent brings"**

\*Houtenville, A. J. & Conway, K. S. (2008). Parental effort, school resources, and student achievement. *Journal of Human Resources*, 43(2), 437-453.



# Whats New On The Website:

Look for the new tab on the website !!!

## Web Links

You will find resources **websites & articles** for:

\*Action Team Members \* Teachers \* Professionals \* Administrators\* Parents



### REMINDER!!!

Need a conference call line?

Contact **Sandy Lines @ EPIC**  
lines@epicforchildren.org

\*Please allow at least 3 days notice so she can accommodate your request.

**Did you know that when you log in to the website you can:**

- Post & Revise shared documents
- Schedule meetings
- Post your comments on the Message Board

**Please remember to log in to communicate with your Action Team.**

Having trouble?

**Email: [samepagesummit@epicforchildren.org](mailto:samepagesummit@epicforchildren.org)**

## Have Questions?

### Don't forget about the Team Support Representatives!

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about your Action Team please contact:

Business Community, Social Healthcare/Welfare, PTI- Mary Beth or Julie  
Assessment Tools, Quality Indicators- Carol  
Diverse Families, Higher Education, Professional Staff Development- Cathy

**\*\*\*REMEMBER** contact the Action Team Chair FIRST... if you can't get in touch with them, please notify the Action Team Support Team members above.

Mary Beth Debus- [debusmb@epicforchildren.org](mailto:debusmb@epicforchildren.org)  
Cathy Romano- [cmr3958@yahoo.com](mailto:cmr3958@yahoo.com)  
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# Action Team News!

We would like to thank the Action Teams as they continue to work towards recommendations for the On the Same Page organizations to present to the NYS Board of Regents!

Here is some recent news:

The Action Teams decided to adopt the following **definition of Family Engagement in education**:

- First, family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage families in meaningful ways and in which families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development.
- Second, family engagement is continuous across a child's life and entails enduring commitment but changing parent roles as children mature into young adulthood.
- Third, effective family engagement cuts across and reinforces learning in the multiple settings where children learn- at home, in prekindergarten programs, in school, in after school programs, in faith-based institutions, and in the community.

The Action Teams have included the **National PTA Standards for Family Engagement in Education** as an additional means to be used as a guide to their work. You can find this document on our website.

**For more information on the Action Teams, please go to our website:**  
**[www.samepagesummit.org](http://www.samepagesummit.org)**

Here is the list of current Action Team Chairs. If you would like to participate on an Action Team or find out more about what they are doing please email: [samepagesummit@epicforchildren.org](mailto:samepagesummit@epicforchildren.org)

**Higher Education &  
Professional Certification Programs**  
Chair: Joanne Curran

**Engaging Diverse Families**  
Chair: Dee Ippolito

**Professional Staff Development Opportunities**  
Chair: Claudette Agard Co-Chair: Bob Witherspoon

**Engaging Social Welfare/Healthcare Community**  
Chair: Jenn O'Connor

**Family Engagement Assessment Tools**  
Chair: Mary Ellen Blakey Co-chair: Emily Zyko

**Engaging the Business Community**  
Chair: Mary Miller

**Parent Involvement/Family Engagement  
Quality Indicators**  
Chair: Roberta Stillin-Dowman

**PTI**  
Chair: Kim Sweet