

National and Local Reaction to “It Takes A Parent”

“Appleseed has placed its finger on the pulse of a core education issue that is often overlooked. Informed parents are able to make a crucial difference in the academic success of children and the overall performance of schools.”

U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) (Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. As Representative, Isakson helped draft the No Child Left Behind Act in 2001 and served as Chairman of the Georgia Board of Education from 1996 to 1999)

“The quality of information that parents receive about the No Child Left Behind Act is hugely important. Parents need this support to understand what’s going on in their child’s school, but this [Appleseed] report shows we’re falling far short of that goal. It’s time to get back on track.”

“The recommendations of Appleseed will be a valuable guide to Congress as we reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act next year. As we revise the law, we must get serious about effective parental involvement in every school in America.”

U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) (Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and Co-Sponsor of the NCLB Act of 2001)

“The Appleseed Report joins other research that consistently shows the power of parent involvement in raising student achievement and calls attention to the needs of under-served communities and individuals. This work supports PTA’s relentless efforts to help parents stay informed and involved in their children’s education, while strengthening parent-school-community partnerships that benefit all children.”

Warlene Gary (CEO, National PTA)

“This [Appleseed] report is in sync with recommendations NEA has proposed for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind law.”

Reg Weaver (President, National Education Association)

“I do respond here as a passionate advocate for higher ground in public education. I believe with all my heart that this [Appleseed] report has the power to catapult parents/guardians to the key position they must command in order for us to reach our highest aspirations for education in our country.”

Peggy Nielson (Member, Georgia Board of Education, 2nd District, Southwest Georgia)

To your entire staff and everyone that participated in this research project I want say, Thank You!!! With all my heart.

As I have sat through the grueling Consolidated Application Planning Committee meetings weekly for the last 3 months, I was finally ready to ask the question: After all the NCLB goals, the IDEA performance goals, and the local school board goals - where are the goals and strategies that get parents involved? You all have nailed this one on the head! This is what I have been looking for, clear cut guidelines around sound implementation of strategies that get parents involved/engaged.

Carl Thomas (Title I Parent; PTA President, Needs Improvement school; Member-Consolidated Application Planning Committee; Substitute Teacher)

“It Takes A Parent,” the new Appleseed report...is correct in concluding that parent involvement in schools needs to change. As the Appleseed report recognizes, a wealth of research supports the importance of parent involvement in increasing student achievement.

Laura Dobbs (President, Georgia PTA)