

Massachusetts Parent Involvement Project



June 17, 2002

Acton PIP (Parent Involvement Program) Highlights

The Massachusetts Parent Involvement Project's mission is to increase involvement of families in their children's mathematics, science and technology (MST/E) education by creating partnerships and supporting parents in communities where students are underachieving in MST/E education.

After receiving a grant from the National Science Foundation through the Department of Education, Acton PIP (Parent Involvement Program) built a coalition of parents, school staff, and members of the community/business sector. The primary mission of PIP was to increase involvement of families in their children's mathematics, science and technology (MST/E) education by creating partnerships and providing enrichment activities to complement the existing MST/E. In their first year, "take-home" math and science kits were developed to engage families in math and science education. The kits were translated into four languages introduced by a kick-off event in collaboration with the Acton Science Discovery Museum.

In their second year, Acton PIP continued the math and science kit distribution and translations, held a highly successful Supermarket Math event at Roche Brothers of Acton market (aka "Market Math Mania"), and helped sponsor and pilot an after school ESL Homework Club at the Douglas School and Conant School to reach out to ESL students across all four Acton Public ESL elementary schools. Acton PIP also held a highly successful Science event, "Biodiversity in Your Backyard" at NARA Park for grades K-6 as local co-sponsors of MA Biodiversity Days along with the Acton Conservation Commission and Acton Conservation Trust with activities and presentations tied into the APS elementary curriculum.

Mass PIP recently recognized the accomplishments of Acton PIP as follows:

Due to the ending of the grant, the Acton Coalition had two years instead of the usual three to develop its coalition and activities. However, it far surpassed the goals of the project in this time. At the final MassPIP Showcase on May 29, 2002, the coalition received an award for its superior performance. As the award write-up stated, "Acton was selected as a MassPIP Award recipient because of translation of their kits into several languages, using translators from the community. In addition to a trilingual museum activity, they held ESL Homework Clubs for four language groups, surveying parents in their own languages. Many parents of children in the clubs came into the schools for the first time."

Nomination criteria for the Mass PIP award included: Sustainability, coalitions that have provided opportunities for parents to become leaders and trainers reaching other parents to increase their involvement in their children's education....

MassPIP "highly recommends the Acton PIP coalition as a family/community/school partnership with a track record of supporting quality education and family involvement".