

# Archived Information

RMC Research Corporation

## Help At Last

### Improving Teacher Knowledge/Engaging the Public

The *Help At Last* series of publications was developed to provide clients in the field and community members with easy to use and understand materials that provide research, insights, and ideas into important issues regarding improving education. The publications in this series include the following titles and brief descriptions:

*Developing Effective School-Community Partnerships.* Many educators are not sure how to start developing school-community partnerships, or how to focus the partnerships to provide maximum benefits. This booklet presents a step-by-step guide for schools to develop and sustain effective school-community partnerships.

*High Performing, High Poverty Middle Schools: What Does It Take? Volume I: The Study.* This publication, the first of two volumes, is intended for use by all middle schools interested in improving student achievement. This booklet, Volume One, is organized to describe the study of high performing, middle schools with high numbers of Latino students in poverty throughout the state of Texas, who showed consistent growth in test scores on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) over a period of years.

*High Performing, High Poverty Middle Schools: What Does It Take? Volume II: Improving Your School.* This publication, the second of two volumes, is intended for use by all middle school staff interested in improving student achievement. The booklet contains implications and suggestions for school improvement. Many useful tools to help build the improvement process are outlined. These tools include:

- A set of rubrics based on the results of the study;
- A scoring guide for the rubrics;
- A planning tool based on the results of the rubrics;
- A list of suggested strategies for improvement from which to choose; and
- An assessment tool to track the success of the plans.

### *Monthly Activities for Family Involvement in Learning*

In this guide, strategies are provided to use in strengthening the home-school connection. The reader is given ideas and examples on how to increase family involvement in children's learning through the use of activities designed to support the development of literacy. A different parent involvement topic is presented for each month, beginning in September.

*Monthly Activities for Parent Involvement in Secondary Schools.* This booklet was developed to show ways in which schools can work effectively with families of adolescent students because family involvement is critical to the success of students across all grade levels. A different parent involvement topic for each of ten months is presented, along with a parent page tip sheet to duplicate and send home to parents.

All of these publications are available for purchase on a cost-recovery basis. Over the next twelve months, we will be exploring the development of additional publications in this series, perhaps focused on integrating literacy into mathematics and science.