

5 **Basic Information About Parent Centers**¹

15 Some school-based parent centers consist of little more than
26 a bookshelf of materials in the waiting room of a school
35 office; others are more elaborate and self-contained, with
44 comfortable seating and coffee at the ready, books and other
55 materials that can be taken or checked out, and a computer,
64 VCR or DVD player available, which visitors can use for
73 informational purposes. Some have no staff, some [parent
83 centers] are run by a changing cast of volunteers, and some
92 have an actual staff member. Minimally, the purpose of such
101 parent centers is to distribute information and to make
113 parents feel welcome at a school or, if the center is located
123 off campus, to make them feel more comfortable with the
131 U.S. education system in general. Ideally, every school would
141 house its own parent center, but given the limited resources
150 of most schools (including time, funding, and space), parent
159 centers are less common than many educators and parents
166 alike would want.

¹ http://www2.ed.gov/admins/comm/parents/parentinvolve/report_pg13.html