PIQE is committed to evaluating the impact of our programs and using the knowledge gained to more thoroughly and efficiently reach underserved parents, at-risk youth, and ethnically and linguistically diverse communities. Program evaluation is an ongoing process of learning, reflecting, and improving that encourages students and families to convey their feelings about the PIQE parent engagement program, as well as the impact it has had on their lives. Independent evaluations of PIQE are performed every two years and to date, results from those studies have shown that:

1. In 2004, researchers from San Diego State University showed that among Latino families who participated in PIQE’s Parent Engagement in Education Program 93% of students graduated from high school, in contrast to a dropout rate of 50% for other Latino students. Of those graduating students, 79.2% enrolled in college following high school graduation.

2. In 2006, by using pre- and post-evaluation data and comparing the results to a control student group, Dr. Janet Chrispeels, University of California Santa Barbara, showed that PIQE’s Parent Engagement in Education Program promotes educational improvement by resulting in less truancy and absenteeism; fewer disciplinary problems; increased parent involvement at school functions; decreased time spent watching television and more emphasis on the importance of reading; a greater number of homework assignments completed and returned to the teacher; and improved grades and better morale on the part of the student.

3. In 2006 to 2008, a second partnership with Dr. Janet Chrispeels, now at the University of California San Diego, resulted in the development of an internal evaluation instrument for measuring the impact of PIQE’s Parent Engagement in Education Program at the high school level. The evaluation tool was piloted in two high schools in the Central Valley over two years and indicated that students whose parents graduated from PIQE’s Program took 50% more A-G college preparatory classes; earned significantly higher grades; completed more school courses; and were absent almost 40% fewer days than the control group.

4. In 2008, a study by Ms. Joanne Martin and Dr. Ruben Espinosa (San Diego State University and Claremont Graduate University) demonstrated that PIQE helps schools build student success and that promoting parent engagement increases parent involvement and student achievement; opportunities for parents to build skills; overall school performance; school investment in the development of meaningful parent involvement in education; and, school involvement in organizing and mobilizing the community to increase benefits for students.

5. Most recently, in 2010, the California Partnership of Achieving Student Success (Cal-PASS) showed that, when compared to their peers, students whose parents completed PIQE’s program performed better in high school with a significantly greater number receiving their high school diploma. In addition, children of PIQE graduates showed increases in achievement in Math and English.