

GCPS PARENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CURRICULUM

Level 1

Orientation: Team Building – Learning and Growing Together

In this session the Vision, Mission, and Goals for the School, or District's Parent Leadership Academy is established. PLA participants are given an opportunity to meet and work together in both large and small groups with other parents to discuss their ideas about meaningful parent involvement. Each group will share their ideas, i.e. openly communicate their beliefs. Working together is essential for establishing and understanding the goals, putting strategies in place to support the goals, and ensuring the strategies will and/or are working. With this type of collaboration PLA members will establish the vehicle for future parent involvement leading to the success of the academy.

**Other topics discussed: meeting nights, length of meetings, expectations, book study, etc.*

Important: The above objective is only for “establishing” the first PLA. Once the academy’s Vision, Mission, and Goals have been set this description should change, please see example.

Example:

Orientation: Team Building – Learning and Growing Together

The goal of the Parent Leadership Academy is to develop “Parent Leaders” who will become advocates for their children and their children’s education. As participants gain new knowledge they will grow as leaders and begin to support and guide their community through hardships, decision making, and personal growth, becoming Ambassadors for other parents. In this session, PLA participants are given an opportunity to meet and talk to Level 2 and Level 3 PLA members, hear presentations by PLA graduates, and ask questions.

**Other topics discussed: meeting nights, length of meetings, expectations, book study, etc.*

Class 1: NCLB (Local, State, Federal)

How much do you really know about the No Child Left Behind Act? Are you aware the law is coming up for reauthorization? This class will be packed full of factual information every parent “Must Know” about NCLB. PLA members will be guided through a general overview of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) from the Federal, State, and Local perspective. Then, move forward discussing the pros and cons of the newly purposed guidelines for the reauthorization of NCLB.

Class 2: Title I: The Facts & Myths

Title I is for bad schools! How often have you heard a parent, educator, and/or community member make that statement? During this class PLA members will get the opportunity to dig into the What, When, Why, Where, and How’s of Title I, Title I Schools, and Title I Funding. When PLA members leave this class they will be armed with the “facts” about Title I.

Class 3: Leadership Qualities/Learning Styles Part 1

This class begins with an activity that encourages participants to build relationships, while helping them understand the difficulties teachers experience when trying to provide every parent and student with individualized time and attention. Next, what are your top five strengths? Guess again! Participants are introduced to Marcus Buckingham’s book, “Now Discover Your Strengths” (book study) and instructed to pick, what they think their top five strengths are from Buckingham’s list. Were you right? Members will take Buckingham’s StrengthFinder Assessment during this class.

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Class 4: Leadership Qualities/Learning Styles Part 2

Are you a Visual, Tactile, or Auditory Learner? PLA members take a “Learning Style Inventory” to determine how they learn best.

PLA members will share their five strengths and learning styles with each other. Do the parents that have your strengths, learn like you? How many parents have your #1 strength? Did you know how you learned best? What is your child’s or children’s learning style?

Class 5: FT: Barnes & Noble

This class meets at Barnes & Noble where parents have an opportunity to get the inside scoop on the book store and what they have to offer. Parents are surprised to find out what neat and exciting programs and projects Barnes & Noble offers. Participants take a guided tour around the store and are encouraged to bring their family members and friends to visit the store.

Graduation: Reflect, Discuss, and Evaluate

In the last class all PLA members (Lv 1, 2, & 3) participate in focus group discussions. They are asked to share one piece of information they learned during their time in the academy that had the greatest impact on them and one piece of information that had little to no impact. Participants share the benefits of the academy, as well as the challenges. In addition, the participants are encouraged to discuss any ideas and/or changes they would like to see added, and/or removed from the curriculum. Finally, participants are asked to complete an evaluation and encouraged to share their own ideas about parent leadership on the evaluation.