

Parent Involvement *equals* Student Achievement

# The Gwinnett County Public School Parent Leadership Academy

*One Strategy for Increasing Parent Involvement and Student Achievement*

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## Building Community . . . The Foundation for Excellence

*No society can remain vital or even survive without a reasonable base of shared values. When community exists, it confers upon its members identity, a sense of belonging, a measure of security. A community has the power to motivate its members to exceptional performance. Community can set standards of expectations for the individual and provide the climate in which great things happen.*

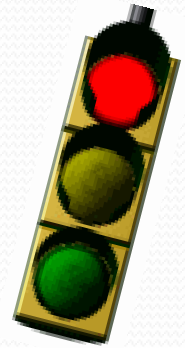
—JOHN W. GARDNER, FORMER  
PROFESSOR, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

# *Question?*

Who's responsible for a child's educational development?



**PARENTS, YOU MUST GO TO THE OFFICE!!**



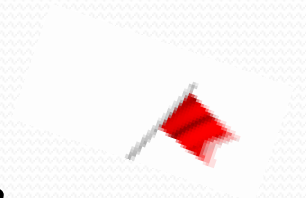
**BEWARE  
DO NOT  
ENTER!!!**



**STOP!!!!!!**




**YOU MUST SIGN IN!!!!!!**





# Today's Goal.....

provide a strategy that *will*  
develop a shared,  
collaborative partnership  
between parents, school staff,  
and community members.



Educators cannot expect total engagement and high standards from students if both families and schools cannot form powerful alliances to guide those students to academic and lifelong success.



# **Why do parents get involved?**

Families of all cultural backgrounds, education, and income levels encourage their children, talk with them about school. They help them plan for higher education and keep them focused on learning.

Programs and interventions that engage families in supporting their children's *learning at home and school* are linked to higher student achievement







However, many parents are unclear about what role they should have in their child's education.

# Gwinnett County Public Schools

## Parent Leadership Academy

*Trains and Teaches Parents to become Advocates for their  
Children and Ambassadors in their Community*

**In the program parents learn to:**

- **Define** Meaningful and Effective Parent Leadership
- **Establish and Discuss** the “Guiding Principals” of Meaningful and Effective Parent Leadership
- **Determine** how to *Establish and Cultivate* Effective Parent Leadership
- **Discuss and List** Challenges
- **Share** Ideas, Successes, and Accomplishments

**FACT:**

**Higher performing schools  
“Effectively” involve  
families and community**



# Parent Leadership

Meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents *gain* the knowledge and skills to *function* in meaningful leadership roles and *represent* the “parent voice” to help *shape* the direction of their families, programs and communities. Parent leadership is successfully achieved when parents and professionals “Build Effective Partnerships” and *share* “Responsibility”, “Expertise,” and “Leadership” in decisions being made that affect families and communities. The parents involved in these collaborations are called *Parent Leaders*.

National Parent Leadership Month Tool Kit-[www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org) -Federation co-sponsor

# About the PLA.....

- Focus on providing parents with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to achieve meaningful parent involvement
- Demonstrate that *parent involvement* looks different than the traditional images they may have grown up with
- Encourages , promotes, and models partnerships between school, parents, and community
- Teaches School Accountability; Parental Rights and Responsibilities; and School's Decision-Making Process
- Prepares parents to attend Parent Group Meetings by teaching a curriculum that will promote informed questioning and collaborative discussions with other parents, educators, and community members.
- Empowers parents, leading to increased student achievement as well as emotional and social wellbeing for all students, both in and out of school and throughout their life.

# The Role of a PLA Parent

- Self Advocate
- Support
- Mentor
- Community Involvement
- Administrative and/or Regulatory
- Legislative



# **Are Your Parents “Effective” *Parent* Leaders?**

# Reasons for “Effective” *Parent Leadership*

- *Support* Intense Fundamental Change
- *Raise* Public Awareness
- *Bring* Clarity to Vision and Mission
- *Gain* Knowledge and Skills
- *Succeed* in Environments
- *Sustain* Roles and Develop New Parent Leadership
- *Improve* Productivity and Sustainability



# Essentials for Building “Effective” *Parent* Leadership

- Effective Communication Skills
- Creative Thinking
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- Coalition Building
- Public Advocacy
- Facilitation
- Mentoring



## **FACT:**

**The law states parents are to be  
“afforded substantial and meaningful  
opportunities to participate in the  
education of their children.”**

**Title I, Sec. 1001(12)**

# PLA Parent Leaders



# Thank You

