

Parent Involvement *equals* Student Achievement

The Gwinnett County Public School Parent Leadership Academy

One Strategy for Increasing Parent Involvement and Student Achievement

Donna Power, Ed. S.
Parent Instructional Support Coordinator, LRMS

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.

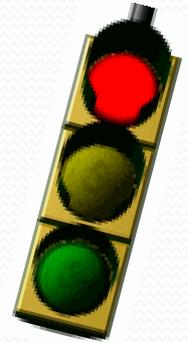
—JOHN W. GARDNER, FORMER
PROFESSOR, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

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!!!!!!



Set Your Appointments



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**



Activity #1

1. Get in groups according to your number
2. Chose a recorder, presenter, and time keeper
3. On the large piece of paper define *Meaningful and Effective Parent Leadership*
4. Give examples of what *Meaningful and Effective Parent Leadership* looks like.
5. Share your responses



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 -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?**

Activity #2

Think-Pair-Share

**Answer on your index card*

1. Think about your school's classes, workshops, and meetings. Write and describe a couple of activities that you believe builds and shapes "Effective Parent Leaders."
2. Turn to the person on your right
3. Share what you have written on your card and allow that person to share his/her information with you.
4. On the back of your index card, document your partners answer.

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)

Meet Your Appointments



PLA Parent Leaders



Thank You

