



National Parent School Partnership Program

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) in partnership with the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund (MALDEF) is offering the Parent School Partnership Program (PSP) to empower parents to be advocates and leaders in their schools and to build authentic parent school partnerships.

Created in 1989, the PSP Program grew out of need to address the educational inequities faced by the Latinx community. The PSP Program prepares parents through a 12-week leadership seminar to ensure parents gain knowledge to:

- ◆ participate in their children's education by learning to navigate the educational system
- ◆ effectively communicate & overcome language barriers & capitalize on cultural assets
- ◆ gain an in-depth understanding of their rights and their children's rights

Parents will develop projects that create positive change to ensure their children receive a just and equitable education that prepares them for life.

PSP Schools

Alonso High School+
BT Washington Elementary School*+
Bryan Elementary School*+
Dover Elementary School*+
Edison Elementary*
Foster Elementary*
Hillsborough High School
Jackson Elementary*
Jefferson High School*+
Jennings Middle School*
Lennard High School+
Leto High School+
Marshall Middle School
Mort Elementary School*+
Palm River Elementary School*
Pierce Middle School
Pizzo Elementary
Reddick Elementary School*+
Robinson Elementary School+
Ruskin Elementary School*+
Shields Middle School*+
Tomlin Middle School+

Curriculum Outline

Session 1: Orientation
Session 2: Parent's Rights & Responsibilities
Session 3: Parent Teacher Partnership
Session 4: Structure & Function of School Site
Session 5: Structure & Function of School District
Session 5B: School Board Field trip
Session 6: Road to Careers and University
Session 6B: Field Trip to a University
Session 7: Politics of Education
Session 8: Responsible Leadership & Teamwork
Session 9: Developing an Action Plan
Session 10: Facilitating Productive Meetings
Session 11: Strengthening Communication Skills
Session 12: Reflection as Leaders



CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session 1: Orientation

The orientation is an introduction to MALDEF and the PSP program's goals and objectives. After an icebreaker activity, the PSP Director or Trainer presents information on parent involvement research, and leads a discussion on the importance of parent involvement and how it relates to student achievement. Participants interested in enrolling in the class fill out the proper forms.

Session 2: Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

This session covers parents' legal rights and responsibilities in the public education system as it relates to classroom observation, their children's school records, due process in discipline matters, testing and access to information from the campus level to the district level. A brief discussion is held on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). In addition, parents learn about standard processes and protocols for resolving a school-related problem. Whenever possible, a civil rights or education lawyer is invited to this session as a guest speaker.

Session 3: Parent Teacher Partnership

This session familiarizes parents with the roles and expectations of parents and teachers to ensure they have a partnership centered on a child's academic success. Participants learn about common core standards, ways to monitor academic progress, key questions to ask during a parent/teacher conference, and strategies to build a positive and successful relationship with their child's teacher. Participants practice a parent/teacher conference through role-playing exercises. A teacher is invited to the class as a guest speaker.

Session 4: Structure and Function of the School Site

This session familiarizes parents with the local school campus by learning about the general job duties of various school positions, understanding the school's instructional programs and available resources. This includes a discussion on funds the school receives from the federal and/or state categorical programs. Further, a discussion is held on No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 /Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and NCLB/ESEA waiver; as it relates to the accountability system it established for schools. Participants also analyze their school's report card to increase understanding of their school's performance. The principal is invited to the class as a guest speaker to talk about the school's Adequate Yearly Progress and the priorities under the Single Plan for Student Achievement or the School Improvement Plan.

Session 5: Structure and Function of the School District and the Board

This session helps parents understand the educational system by discussing the role of the school district and board. Discussions on school finance, budgetary process, and how resources are allocated. Parents receive information on their local school district such as test scores, dropout rates, expulsion rates, graduation rates and the number of students from the district who enter higher learning institutions. The school district's superintendent or a school board member is invited to address the class to provide information on the plan or initiatives the district is implementing to improve educational outcomes.

Session 6: Road to the University & Field Trip to a Local University

This session increases parents' awareness of higher education by addressing typical concerns and debunking myths about college that parents may have. Information on eligibility requirements, the college admission process, and financial aid is provided. Also, information about higher education options available to immigrant students in their particular state is provided. The invited speaker can be a university outreach counselor and/or a high school guidance counselor. This session prepares participants for a university campus tour in the following session.



CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Session 7: Politics of Education

In this session participants learn to identify their local, state, and federal policymakers. Information is provided on how to contact elected officials and legislators. The Trainer leads a discussion on current educational issues and the participants select one current issue such as accountability systems, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, or performance standards. An elected official is invited as a guest speaker to this session.

Session 8: Responsible Leadership and Teamwork

This session includes a discussion about leadership and about parents as leaders in their homes, schools and communities. Information is provided on team-building exercises and systematic decision-making. The parents will briefly discuss then prioritize various problems affecting their school or community and then will select the issue(s) their group(s) would like to address.

Session 9: Developing an Action Plan

This session teaches participants the basic components of an action plan including defining problems, and establishing goals, objectives and outcomes. Participants continue to work in groups to address the issue they select that will help improve academic outcomes for the children in their school. Each project developed will be presented at the end of the course.

Session 10: Facilitation of and Participation in Productive Meetings

In this session participants learn to plan a meeting, set the agenda, invite participants to the meeting, organize the meeting room, and publicize the meeting. In addition, participants learn strategies on how to facilitate an effective meeting and ensure everyone in a group has an opportunity to participate. Participants practice facilitating a meeting, and evaluate previous meetings to establish how they will conduct meetings in their own work groups.

Session 11: Strengthening Communication Skills

The focus of this session is to prepare participants to become effective speakers. Information is provided on basic public speaking skills and different types of presentations (i.e. addressing a school board, talking with parents informally, conducting a workshop, granting an interview to the media). Participants will develop and practice a presentation on their group project, then present it to the individuals with the power to resolve the problem.

Session 12: Reflection as Leaders and Members of our Community

In this session participants revisit the definition of leadership, the goals established in the first session, and whether the group accomplished the goals set. Parents also reflect on how they spend their time in a week to ensure their participation is strategic and learn about community leaders (i.e. CBOs, education advocacy groups) and different organizations where they can practice that leadership within their school (i.e. PTA, English Learner Advisory Committee, etc.). They will also discuss the parent leadership alumni network, next steps for their group project, and the implementation of their leadership. Graduation logistics are discussed during this session.

Graduation Ceremonies and Presentation Of Certificates Of Completion

Participants and instructor plan the graduation ceremony, invite a keynote speaker, develop the evening's program and send out invitations.

**Preparation begins at least one month prior to the end of the training sessions.*