

CFEC PARENT LEADERSHIP PARTNER PROGRAM

for Partner Schools

What is the Parent Leadership Partner Program?

CFEC's Parent Leadership Partner (PLP) Program is a uniquely designed engagement-focused curriculum that aims to increase and improve parental engagement within our local school communities. The curriculum can be utilized by any parent group, but it is especially tailored for use among parents of students enrolled in Title I schools or schools with a poverty index greater than 60%. In this context, parents include any adult who is serving as the primary caretaker or guardian for a student.

The goals of the program are to (1) increase parent capacity to advocate for their own children's educational needs, as well as advocacy for school improvement for all students and (2) increase parent awareness about available tools and resources beneficial to them and their children. In PLP, groups of up to approximately 15 parents increase their knowledge, skills, confidence, and connections in a supportive environment with other parents. PLP sessions are built around 7 research-based modules developed by Dr. Yasha Jones Becton that have been incorporated into a parent workbook and cover topics related to leadership skill development and navigating the special education system as well as providing understanding about how parents can become parent leaders within their local school community.

Participating parents are expected to (1) prepare for each session by reviewing information and exercises in the workbook; (2) attend and actively participate in an orientation and all seven sessions; and (3) develop a small leadership project that they will undertake, either individually or with other participants, to address an education-related need in their school or community. Parents who successfully complete the program participate in a small graduation ceremony to recognize their accomplishments.

BENEFITS:

- Increased numbers of parents in the school community are prepared and eager to partner with their school and advocate for its success.
- PLP graduates encourage other parents to engage with the school by serving as trusted brokers, modeling effective partnership practices, and exemplifying the benefits of family-school partnerships.

SAMPLE FEEDBACK FROM PARENT GRADUATES

*"This program gave me the right **resources, tools, and mindset** to dig deeper in school involvement for parents with our children's education and environment as well as be the voice for the voiceless."*

*"I joined SIC, became more vocal as far as my children were concerned in school, and even found myself **more confident in showing other parents how to advocate for their children.**"*

For information on minimum requirements for conducting a PLP, [please click here.](#)

For more information, please contact CFEC Project Director Karen Utter at utter@email.sc.edu or call 800.868.2232
c/o SC School Improvement Council

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