

## **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Sacramento City Unified School District recognizes that when families are involved in their children's education they achieve higher grades, have better attendance and behavior, complete more homework, and demonstrate a more positive attitude toward education. We are proud of the diversity of our students and believe that building authentic, culturally-inclusive partnerships with their families is the best way to ensure their success in school and life.

The Office of Parent Support Services was created to strengthen links between schools, families, and partner community organizations. The office offers schools, families and community based organizations information, technical assistance and training to implement family involvement activities, training opportunities for school staff and parents, and various resources.

Key Services and Programs:

- Parent Information Exchange (P.I.E.): Provides parents/caregivers, school sites with additional resources, and the opportunity to exchange information and make connections with community agencies.
- Passport to Success: Annual parent/family festival designed to provide a one-stop shop for educational and health related tool and resource information for parents and families.
- Parent Language Line: Access to over-the-phone interpretation in over 250 languages for school administrators, teachers and office staff who need to communicate with non-English speaking parents.
- The Parent/Teacher Home Visit Project: A partnership between ACT, Sacramento City Teachers Association and the Sacramento City Unified School District, the Home Visit Project provides training and resources to organize effective home visits.
- Parent Leadership Development Training Academy: Provides leadership training to a selected group of parents, teachers and administrators. The training takes place once a month (for six months) and provides participants with skills and knowledge of how our school system works, the education policy-making process and how to be an effective leader in education.
- Leadership Workshops: Provides leadership development workshops for members of the District's Advisory Councils on parliamentary procedure, how to conduct effective meetings, effective presentations etc.
- California Family Involvement Day: This event is held on the third Thursday in February. It is designed to raise awareness among parents of the importance of being engaged in their children's education; it is also an opportunity to thank the parents who have demonstrated leadership in helping to improve their schools and education. This event is celebrated at each school site with educational workshops, appreciation lunches or just by offering coffee and donuts to parents when they drop off their children.
- Leadership Conferences on School-Family-Community Partnerships: District Leadership Conferences on School-Family-Community Partnerships are held every year. These conferences bring parents, teachers and administrators to discuss effective research based strategies to engage families in helping to raise the academic success and academic achievement of students.
- Parenting Classes: The goal of the parenting program is to provide parents with the appropriate skills and attitudes needed to promote the healthy development of their children and enhance the quality of family relationships (see Adult Education Link).
- District Advisory Committees:

### ***District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)***

The purpose of the DELAC, or Subcommittee on English Learner education, is to advise the district's local governing board (e.g., in person, by letters/reports) on programs and services to English Learners. The committee advises the district's governing board on at least the following: (1) development/revision of the English Learner Master Plan, (2) district-wide needs assessment, (3) parental exception waivers, (4) funding, (5) annual language census, (6) reclassification criteria, (7) parent written notifications and (8) appropriate teacher credentialing.

### ***District Advisory Committee (DAC)***

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) is comprised mostly of parents, and also includes principals, teachers and school staff members. Each school selects one School Site Council (SSC) member to serve as its DAC representative. The primary purpose of the DAC is to involve parents in the planning, development and evaluation of Title I and State Compensatory Education (SCE) programs and services in the district. The DAC meets monthly to discuss programs and services, learn about state and federal regulations, share effective practices from the school site, strategize to increase parent engagement district-wide, and formulate recommendations for district administrators and the governing board.