



COURSE SEQUENCE

In each session, parents focus on a question. Together, they uncover skills in Leadership, Partnering, Change, and Educational Policies & Practices.

*** Indicates sessions that are scheduled at the availability of a guest speaker or community or district meeting. Sequence below is recommended.**

Retreat: Getting started and course overview

Beliefs about learning, what needs to happen in education, and our hopes as parent leaders in education

GOAL: Create a community of people comfortable working and sharing together on the skills of a parent leader and partner in education

Session 1: What do effective schools look like?

What you consider in choosing a successful school for your child

GOAL: Identify the characteristics of an effective school

Session 2: What is change?

A look at the change process and the characteristics of a successful change; What a leader needs to know to partner for good learning outcomes

GOAL: Identify and appreciate the power and spirit of change and how this applies to change efforts

Session 3: How and why do schools change?

How change in education is different and the same as change in other systems; Common obstacles and assets to change in schools

GOAL: Know how change happens in education

Session 4:* What is our educational system?

The educational system in your community and in the state – roles, responsibilities, resources, accountability; How does a Board of Education function; Presentation by Superintendent of Schools

GOAL: Identify how key parts of the educational system and the school work

Session 5:* How does your school district function?

Roles, responsibilities, resources, common policies of the local Board of Education; Class attends a local Board of Education meeting

GOAL: Know how your Board of Education functions and how common issues and needs are addressed

Session 6:* What is a citizen's/parent's role in how the school district functions?

Review Board of Education meeting to identify a citizen's role, responsibilities, and expectations for participation

GOAL: Know how your school district functions and how common issues and needs are addressed; Know the process, procedures and expectations for participation at a local Board of Education meeting

Session 7: Why do some students succeed in school while others do not?

An examination of data and what it tells us about student success in your school district and in other districts in the state

GOAL: Begin to use data to identify a range of causes for differences in educational achievement

Session 8: What is a parent's role in children's learning and school improvement?

The importance of parents in children's learning and what makes an effective parent-school partnership

GOAL: Clarify a parent leader's role in education, as well as laws and expectations about parent participation

Session 9: When are improvements in schools warranted?

School profiles and what they tell us

GOAL: Use data to identify areas in need of improvement in a school district

Session 10: What are key education policies?

Impact of key education policies and budgets on student achievement

GOAL: Know key education policies and their role in student success; Know roles and responsibilities in setting education policy and state, district and school budgets

Session 11: How do parents lead in schools?

Essential leadership skills and how to practice them

GOAL: Know specific leadership roles in schools and how to effectively apply leadership practices learned in Parents SEE

Session 12: How does understanding and a civic tool kit lead to effective parent leadership in education?

Opportunities for parent leadership in schools and your role as a parent leader in making schools better

GOALS: Identify the impact of Parent SEE and personal leadership roles going forward