

Overview of the Parent Engagement Toolkit

The School Family and Parent/Community Services for Los Angeles Unified School District is proud to announce that The Parent Engagement Toolkit has notable updates for the 2010-11 school year. These updates include facilitator's training guides, reflection tools, adult learning theory, and added curricula for school sites to use as they provide training to their parents and community.

The Parent Engagement Toolkit is differentiated by levels including an Elementary and Secondary version. Training sections include:

Developing a Robust Parent Center

- Understanding Parent Centers
- Parent Center Guidelines
- Culturally Relevant Parent Centers
- Parent Center: Tips for Working with Teachers
- Parent Center: Parents of Exceptional Children
- Keeping the Record Straight
- School Volunteering

Division of Adult and Career Education

- Kindergarten Transition
- List of Adult and Career Education classes that LAUSD offers
- Information about ESL classes
- Information about Community Based English Tutoring (CBET) classes
- Information about Beyond the Bell class offerings for Adults

Parent Education Curricula

Elementary

- Effective Communication using The Four Agreements, by Don Miguel Ruiz
- Student-Led Conferences
- School Report Cards
- Kindergarten Curriculum: English Language and Math
- High Frequency Words
- Family Math
- Family Story Time
- Reader's Theatre

Secondary

- Effective Communication using The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz
- Student-Led Conferences
- School Report Card
- College Awareness/Preparation
- Navigating the Family Module & Creating a User Account

Toolkit Training Components Descriptions

Facilitator's Guide Sheet

A facilitator's guide can be found at the beginning of all trainings to inform parent center directors in planning, preparation and implementation of the curricula with parents. The training guides state the purpose, outcome, curricular standard alignment, if applicable, and list of materials needed to teach the trainings. The guide also delineates the roles of the facilitator and the steps participants will follow as they are trained on the toolkit.

My Growth Action Tool

The My Growth Action Tool is included at the end of each training section and is to be completed by the participants. It serves the purpose of keeping the parent center directors focused on their professional growth by having them reflect on their learning and guides them thru implementation of trainings at their parent centers.

Adult Learning Theory

The Toolkit is based on the assumption that all learners come with both experiences and personal perceptions of the world and that they deserve respect as participants as they engage in learning. We have infused the principles of the adult learning theory based on the work of Judith Warren Little and Jane Vella.

Elementary

Kindergarten Curriculum – This is a program designed to empower parents and demonstrate to them their ability to support their child's education. Parents are taught a series of educational games in the areas of literacy and math. Parents are encouraged to play the games with their children as a way of reinforcing what their children learn in school. Activities were developed in collaboration with kindergarten teachers and support the *California State Kindergarten Learning Standards*.

High Frequency Words (K-3 + Secondary SAT words) – This program provides parents of primary students with a list of 300 of the most frequently used words in the English Language. Parents are taught word games to use with their children to help them to recognize the words and pronounce them. The word list is aligned to *Open Court* and should be used with students K-3. In addition, secondary students are provided with a list of words drawn from the *SAT College Entrance Exam*. The goal is for the students to learn the words and their definition.

Family Story Time (K-5) – This is a family literacy program that motivates parents and gives them support for reading and communicating with their children at home. The Parent Center Director with the support of a Parent Community Facilitator conducts the program. Parents are invited to come to a series of workshops where they can experience quality children's literature and learn about strategies that will help their children become good readers. Books in both English and Spanish are provided for parents to check out.

Family Math (K-12) – These *Family Math* activities have been aligned with grade level standards, *Scott Foresman's: California Mathematics* and the LAUSD Mathematics Instructional Guide (K-Algebra I) and include opportunities for parents and students to develop problem-solving skills and to build an understanding of mathematics with "hands-on" materials. Parents will learn to use such math strategies as: looking for patterns, drawing a graph/picture, working backwards, working together (cooperative learning), and eliminating possibilities. The goals are for parents to

learn: how to help their child with math at home, what grade level math standards their child will learn in school this year and how to make math fun.

Readers Theatre (K-5) New This section includes one reader's theatre script for each grade Kindergarten through 5th grade. The reader's theatre scripts come from the Open Court Reading Anthologies.

Effective Communication (K-12) New The updated Tool Kit includes a thoughtfully created curriculum using the wisdom book entitled, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. This curriculum provides parents a method of reflecting on the impact their decisions have on themselves and others, especially their children; assists parents in note taking and comprehension skills; familiarizes parents in Benjamin Bloom's higher order thinking skills through engagement activities as they formulate questions to further learning; and addresses ways to enhance two-way communication between the school and families including participation in student-led conferences.

Student-Led Conferences (5-12) New In this section parents learn the purpose and benefits of student-led conferences. The parents will be able to understand the work of their children through their own voices.

School Report Card (K-12) New The School Report Card training is designed to teach parents how to access and analyze school data. This training will help parents and communities understand how to read the data on their School Report card and understand the implications on the academic achievement of students.

Secondary

College Awareness/Preparation Program (6-8) – This program is designed to encourage and support students, who have the potential to become the first in their family to pursue and complete a college education. The program aims to create a partnership between parent and child that values education and encourages the students to improve their academic and life skills, develop leadership qualities and pursue professional careers.

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Integrated Student Information System (ISIS) New The ISIS training is designed to enroll parents in and teach them how to navigate LAUSD's Family Module system to encourage family involvement in their child's education. This module teaches parents how to monitor their child's academic information.