

Parents as Leaders – Homework Assignment

This is a two-part assignment. You can team up with other participants from your school site to decide who will talk to whom. You may want to have some conversations jointly. (For example, find out if there is time for you to get on the agenda at the next site council or ELAC meeting.)

Part I – Have a conversation with the principal or an assistant principal at your school, and with at least two of the following:

- *Someone from the PTA leadership team*
- *A parent who sits on the School Site Council*
- *Someone from the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)*

Feel free to talk to more people – other parents, teachers, front office staff, students. You can start the conversation by saying something like,

“Hi, my name is _____, and I am a parent volunteer (room parent coordinator/ PTA President/ ELAC member, etc.) here at _____. I’m taking a workshop to learn more about how parents can make a difference by getting involved at our schools, and I’d like to find out your thoughts and ideas about parent involvement here at _____...”

In each of these conversations,

- Share something you learned at the Parents as Leaders workshop that you thought was valuable / relevant to your school.
- Find out something about the other person’s relationship with the school – how long have they been there, what class is their child in, etc.
- Ask this person what he or she thinks parents can do to help the school improve / achieve its goals.
- Find out what the person thinks is the greatest obstacle to effective parent involvement at your school.

Part II – After you have talked with at least four people, get back together with other workshop participant(s) from your school to discuss what you heard. Identify:

- Something you think your school does well in terms of involving parents;
- A challenge to effective involvement that you would like to work on address/resolve/improve.