



**Parents for Public Schools
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Parents for Public Schools Begins First NE Miss. Parent Leadership Institute

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Parents for Public Schools (PPS), a national nonprofit based in Jackson, Mississippi, begins working this month with 30 local parents to strengthen public schools in Northeast Mississippi through an intensive three-month program called the Parent Leadership Institute.

“We are very excited to be working with these committed parents and building a community to support and improve our public schools,” said Anne Foster, National Executive Director of PPS. “Each one of these parents is going to be leading a volunteer effort in a local school that will increase student achievement and involve other parents. Parents are key to making real progress in our schools and we’re supporting each of them in their effort.”

The Parent Leadership Institute (PLI) begins with six days of rigorous training over three months to build the capacity of parents to identify and take action on a specific data-driven academic project. The training sessions help parents use data to design projects that identify school needs and then implement a sustainable plan that involves other parents. Parents for Public Schools provides speakers from around the state on such topics as standardized tests, state accountability measures, and school board governance.

The first Northeast Mississippi Parent Leadership Institute begins in Tupelo with classes on September 18. The course builds off the success of the PPS-Jackson chapter which implemented the first Parent Leadership Institute in Mississippi in 2004.

The Parents Leadership Institute is supported in part by the Hancock Leadership Center (which is hosting classes), CREATE Foundation and a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal-state partnership chaired in Mississippi by Governor Haley Barbour.

PPS staff supporting the Institute are Sally Gray of Tupelo and Dana Larkin of the PPS-Jackson chapter. Training sessions are being held through November.

PPS is a national non-profit organization of community-based chapters working with public school parents and other supporters to improve and strengthen local public schools. Founded in Jackson in 1989, there are 17 PPS chapters in 11 states.

The non-profit has recently begun a statewide effort to strengthen Mississippi public schools and increase parental involvement. The program, *Schoolhouse to Statehouse*, has four parent coaches working in different regions of the state. Coaches organize parents, provide leadership training, and work with local school administrators, business and civic leaders to support and improve public schools.

Parents and community leaders participating in the Institute being held in Tupelo:

Name	Hometown	School
Ungennette Brantley	West Point	Central School
Vonda Burroughs	Tupelo	Lawhon Elementary
Barbara Carouthers	Okolona	Okolona Elementary School
Sheryl M. Dilworth	Shannon	Shannon Elementary School
Jackie Gates	Houston	Houston High School
Mary L. Gates	Okolona	Okolona Elementary School
Theresa Hall-Brown	West Point	Fifth Street Jr. High School
Arlitha Harmon	Tupelo	Saltillo Primary
Claire E. Harrelson	Saltillo	Saltillo Elementary School
Jason Harrelson	Saltillo	Saltillo Elementary School
Veronica Harrison	Hamilton	Hamilton Attendance Center
Andi Hildenbrand	Tupelo	Lawndale Elementary School
Ann Blair Huffman	Tupelo	Carver Elementary
Sarah Jenkins	Okolona	Okolona High School
Shenia Jones	Houston	Houston Middle School
Tanya Jones	Smithville	Smithville Attendance Center
Katina L. Lee	Cedar Bluff	Church Hill Elementary
Edie Myatt	Woodland	Houston Lower Elementary
Rebecca Moore	Okolona	Okolona Elementary School
Amanda Mullins	Smithville	Smithville Attendance Center
Joe E. Orr	Houston	Houston Upper Elementary School
Donnie Peterson	Tupelo	Tupelo Middle School
Carolyn J. Poston	West Point	Central School
Kathy Pounders	Tupelo	Early Childhood Education Center
Teresa Roberts	Shannon	Shannon Middle School
Angie Stevens	Smithville	Smithville Attendance Center
Cindy Walls	Shannon	Shannon Elementary School
Cindy Walls	Houston	Houston Upper Elementary School
Carlene Watkins	Houston	Houston High School
Martha Ann Wilson	Tupelo	Parkway Elementary

For more information on Parents for Public Schools, contact the national office based in Jackson at 601-969-6936 or visit www.parents4publicschools.org.

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