



### **What is the Parents for Public Schools Leadership Institute?**

The PPS Leadership Institute is a parent advocacy training program that helps parents become more involved in improving public schools to enhance academic achievement for *all* students.

### **Who will participate?**

The Institute is open to all public school parents and caregivers – and those who work with students. Participants must have an interest in the improvement of public schools. Selection of participation is by application only.

### **How many people will participate?**

The Institute will train approximately 30 individuals throughout the Pinebelt area annually. These leaders will then work to engage other parents and citizens in improvement projects and activities in their local schools or district.

### **What will participants in the Institute be trained to do?**

Participants will be trained in leadership and communication skills; given information, including achievement data; and provided with an explanation of Mississippi's public education accountability system. Training will enable them to work more effectively with other parents and stakeholders in their community to improve local schools and increase student achievement. They will also be able to work effectively with principals and district administration to identify specific school-level or district-wide improvement needs and serve as partners in developing and implementing improvement plans.

### **When and where will the Institute be held?**

The training sessions for the first annual Institute will be held on February 26 and 27, March 26 and 27, and April 16 and 17, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn 133 Plaza Dr. Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

### **How much does the Institute cost?**

The Institute is free to all participants; all expenses including lodging, meals, and materials will be provided. Stipends for mileage reimbursement for travel to training site may be provided.

### **How does one apply?**

Applications will be available beginning September 2009 through schools, site councils, PTAs, PTOs, or by contacting Victoria Peters at Parents for Public Schools at 601-297-3285 or [vpeters@parents4publicschools.org](mailto:vpeters@parents4publicschools.org). Applications must be received at the Parents for Public Schools **National office** no later than October 30, 2009.

## **Our Mission**

The PPS Leadership Institute is a process that develops a network of skilled, confident parents who are engaged as valued partners in efforts to improve academic achievement for all students by: involving other parents, working with administrators and educators to improve schools; advocating for all children; and holding schools and community accountable.

## **Our Learning Goals:**

- Increase and deepen the knowledge and skills of parents so they can provide leadership in school-community partnerships that improve student achievement.
- Develop a network of parent leaders who can plan and implement school-wide and/or district-wide projects that improve student achievement.
- Reach out to and tap the leadership potential of historically under-involved parents.

## **Our Academic Expectations:**

- Learn skills for involving and engaging participants and other parents in meaningful work.
- Develop leadership capacity.
- Understand Mississippi's standards-based education system and the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Design and implement school-based action plans to improve student achievement.
- Build a growing network of parent leaders.

## **Our Core Curriculum:**

- **Mississippi standards-based education system** including standards, assessment & accountability (as well as achievement data), student work and performance, education terminology, information sources.
- **Parent involvement and meaningful engagement** including family-friendly schools, bringing parents and teachers together, barriers to parent involvement, recruiting, involving under-involved parents, networking, roles of parents in schools.
- **Leadership** including power, authority and leadership in schools, identification and use of individual strengths, leadership styles, facilitation skills, group process skills.
- **School Improvement Project** including identifying school needs based on data and school information, designing and implementing a project that results in sustainable change, a lasting impact on student achievement and involving other parents.

## **We Believe:**

- Parents want positive experiences for their children.
- Parents *can* make a difference.
- When given achievement information in a format they can understand, parents will hold themselves, their children, and their schools accountable for higher performance.
- As citizens, this is a parent's responsibility.

## **We Know:**

- Parents and schools must work together if our children are to succeed.
- Schools cannot do it alone.
- Schools and school systems need help involving parents.
- Parents need information and skills in order to be stronger advocates for their children and their schools.