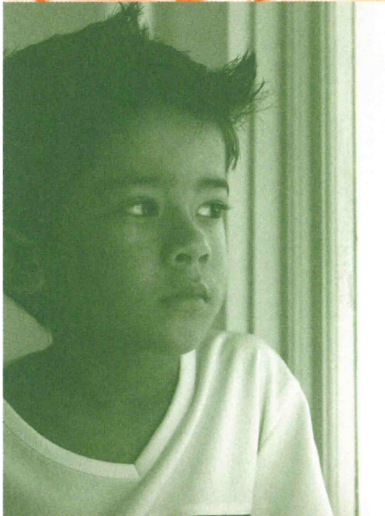


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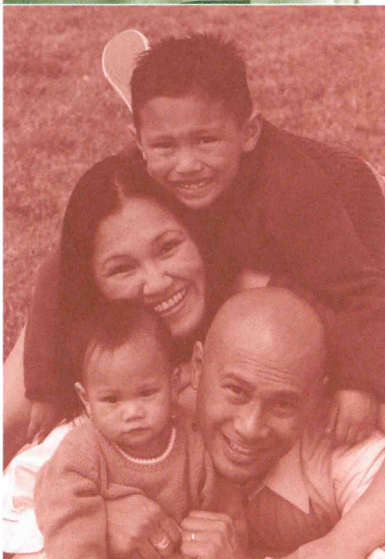


Parent Academy Spring 2012 Evaluation

Prepared for Saint Paul Public Schools



M A R C H 2 0 1 3



Parent Academy Evaluation 2011-2012

Prepared for Saint Paul Public Schools

March 2013

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Highlights

Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) Parent Academy is a six-week program whose mission is “to connect parents, schools, and community as equal partners... to help prepare kids for college”. The program is structured with lesson plans, homework assignments, and attendance requirements for graduation. Parents are equipped with more knowledge and better resources upon completion of the program. Parent Academy is available in English, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish at the pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school level, with class sizes of 20-35 parents.

During the 2011-2012 school year, Saint Paul Public Schools contracted with Wilder Research to create evaluation tools to pilot and prepare for more rigorous evaluation of parent engagement as the program continues to expand district-wide. Wilder worked with SPPS staff to develop pre-surveys and post-surveys. All Parent Academy parents were invited to take pre-surveys at the beginning of the program and post-surveys at the end of the program.

Overall results indicate parents show a significant difference in reported knowledge after participating in the Parent Academy program. In particular, there is a significant difference in reported knowledge of activities that will help get their child to college, such as knowing how to help their child prepare for the MCA tests, knowing how to review academic indicators, and knowing how to review the classes their child is taking.

Parents who attended non-English speaking sessions also showed more significant pre-post changes than parents who attended English-speaking sessions. This is likely because parents who attended English speaking sessions report strong skills prior to Parent Academy in areas like understanding how to support their child in developing good self-esteem, talking to their child's principal, and believing extracurricular activities are important; parents who attended non-English speaking sessions show a significant positive change in these areas after attending Parent Academy. Parents who attended English speaking sessions show a significant positive change in their frequency following a homework routine for their child at the end of the program. Parents from all sessions report a better understanding and ability to navigate the public school system.

There is little or no difference in behavior of parents immediately after the program, in part because many parents are already highly involved with their child before participating in the program and also because the brevity of the program does not allow adequate time to pass to measure behavioral changes. In other words, additional evaluation is needed to better understand the impact of the Parent Academy program over the long run.

- **100%** of Parent Academy participants would recommend the program to other parents in their community.
- **98%** of Parent Academy participants rate their overall experience with the program as “excellent” or “good”.

Parent comments

Parent Academy is very good. It will prepare parents now and in the future to help their children – to better life, schooling, learning, and self-growth. I hope this will continue in the future and I still want to learn more. Thank you very much.

Thanks to both facilitator and co-facilitator for providing us with materials and information and this is good for our children’s future education. We hope someday we can reach our ultimate goal.

Table 1 summarizes pre-post findings from paired sample t-tests, conducted to find whether there is a significant difference between parents’ reported knowledge and behavior. The significance value must be less than .05 for a significant difference. If the significance value is greater than .05, there is no significant difference.

A. Summary of pre-post findings

	Two-tailed sig. value	Pre-post sig.
Relationship with child		
Frequency in asking child how well he or she is doing in school	.952	No
Understanding how to support child in developing good self-esteem	.009	Yes
Relationship with school		
Understanding and ability to navigate the public school system	.000	Yes
Talked with child’s principal for reasons other than child’s disciplinary or behavioral issues	.000	Yes
Talked with child’s teacher for reasons other than child’s disciplinary or behavioral issues	.126	No
After school activities		
Believe extracurricular activities are an important part of my child’s education	.011	Yes
Frequency reading with child or setting aside time for reading at home	.152	No
Frequency helping child with homework or finding homework help for child	.423	No
Frequency following a homework routine for child	.102	No

A. Summary of pre-post findings (continued)

	Two-tailed sig. value	Pre-post sig.
Getting to college		
Frequency talking to child about the importance of attending college or other schooling after high school	.858	No
Frequency talking to child about career interests and future plans	.752	No
Know how to help child prepare for the MCA tests	.000	Yes
Reviewed child's CUM file	.000	Yes
Reviewed Academic Standards for child's grades	.000	Yes
Reviewed child's report card or transcript	.003	Yes
Reviewed child's MCA scores	.002	Yes
Reviewed classes child is taking this year	.000	Yes

Table 2 illustrates English and non-English results from paired sample t-tests - findings are similar across English and non-English sessions, with a few notable differences.

B. Summary of pre-post findings for English and non-English sessions

	English Two-tailed sig. value	English Pre-post sig.	Non-English Two-tailed sig. value	Non-English Pre-post sig.
Relationship with child				
Frequency in asking child how well he or she is doing in school	.562	No	.777	No
Understanding how to support child in developing good self-esteem	.259	No	.004	Yes
Relationship with school				
Understanding and ability to navigate the public school system	.002	Yes	.006	Yes
Talked with child's principal for reasons other than child's disciplinary or behavioral issues	.055	No	.003	Yes
Talked with child's teacher for reasons other than child's disciplinary or behavioral issues	.349	No	.228	No

B. Summary of pre-post findings for English and non-English sessions (continued)

	English Two-tailed sig. value	English Pre-post sig.	Non-English Two-tailed sig. value	Non- English Pre-post sig.
After school activities				
Believe extracurricular activities are an important part of my child's education	.278	No	.011	Yes
Frequency reading with child or setting aside time for reading at home	.288	No	.325	No
Frequency helping child with homework or finding homework help for child	.369	No	.157	No
Frequency following a homework routine for child	.031	Yes	.427	No
Getting to college				
Frequency talking to child about the importance of attending college or other schooling after high school	.066	No	.268	No
Frequency talking to child about career interests and future plans	.232	No	.165	No
Know how to help child prepare for the MCA tests	.000	Yes	.000	Yes
Reviewed child's CUM file	.001	Yes	.000	Yes
Reviewed Academic Standards for child's grades	.001	Yes	.001	Yes
Reviewed child's report card or transcript	.037	Yes	.036	Yes
Reviewed child's MCA scores	.049	Yes	.015	Yes
Reviewed classes child is taking this year	.015	Yes	.003	Yes

Introduction

Saint Paul Public Schools' (SPPS) Parent Academy is a free six-week program whose mission is “to connect parents, schools, and community as equal partners... to help prepare kids for college”. Based on the California Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), created in 1987, Parent Academy participants learn about ways to better support their children, how to navigate and better understand the educational system, and to make connections with their school and their community. The program is structured with lesson plans, homework assignments, and attendance requirements for graduation. Parents are equipped with more knowledge and better resources upon completion of the program.

Parent Academy is available in English, Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish at the pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school level, with class sizes of 25-30 parents. Typically, the Parent Academy sessions are held with culture-group specific and school-specific groups of parents. SPPS staff members actively recruit parents based on student MCA scores, attendance issues, and behavioral issues. The first year of Parent Academy was piloted during the 2010-2011 school year at five pilot sites with 171 participants (168 parents graduated the program):

1. 2010-2011 pilot sites

Barack and Michelle Obama Service Learning Elementary

Highwood Hills Elementary

Paul and Sheila Wellstone Elementary

Phalen Lake Hmong Studies Magnet

Saint Paul Music Academy

Many of these participants went on to facilitate Parent Academy classes during the 2011-2012 school year, which expanded to 20 sites with 793 participants. All participants graduated the program.

During the 2011-2012 school year, Saint Paul Public Schools contracted with Wilder Research to create evaluation tools to pilot and prepare for more rigorous evaluation of parent engagement as the program continues to expand district-wide. Wilder worked with SPPS staff to develop pre-surveys and post-surveys. All Parent Academy parents were invited to take pre-surveys at the beginning of the program and post-surveys at the end of the program. These surveys capture their experiences with understanding the school system and in supporting their child before and after their participation in Parent Academy to

assess outcomes related to parent engagement and the overall Parent Academy experience. More details are available in the Methods section.

During this phase of the Parent Academy implementation process, initial evaluation efforts are intended to help staff refine evaluation efforts to meet the needs of all stakeholders (e.g. parents, community, school, district) and enhance their evaluation capacity moving forward. These results will also help SPPS staff better understand the effectiveness of the program and where to focus efforts in order to improve the program and better serve parents. The report presents evaluation findings for Parent Academy in the Spring 2012 session, including analysis of aggregate pre and post survey data. Examples of open-ended responses from participating parents are provided throughout the report. Please refer to the Appendix for a complete list of themes and responses.

Methods

Wilder Research developed survey instruments in collaboration with SPPS staff and piloted the surveys during the Fall 2011 session. These surveys were translated by SPPS staff for administration in Hmong, Karen, Spanish, and Somali, in addition to English. Surveys were further refined throughout the Winter 2012 and Spring 2012 sessions after piloting to incorporate more culturally sensitive survey wording and survey options. Additional questions about parent engagement and understanding were included in surveys for middle school and high school sessions. English versions of the pre-kindergarten and elementary Spring 2012 surveys are available in the Appendix.

Parent Academy facilitators invited participants to take pre-surveys and post-surveys at the beginning and end of the program to assess changes in parent engagement outcomes as well as overall experience with the Parent Academy program. In the Winter 2012 and Spring 2012 versions of the surveys, parents were asked specific descriptive questions about their oldest child (including the child's name). For example, parents participating in an elementary school session would list their oldest elementary school-aged child. Parents participating in a high school session would list their oldest high school-aged child. Parents were asked to answer survey questions based on experiences with this child only. For all sessions, staff assigned identification numbers in order to compare pre-survey and post-survey findings. Future evaluations of Parent Academy will also include examination of student academic outcomes.

This report presents aggregate findings from Parent Academy's Spring 2012 session, which included classes only for parents of pre-kindergarten and elementary school aged students (Pre-K through Grade 6). Paired sample t-tests are also conducted for questions related to reported knowledge and behavior to compute whether there is a significant difference between parents' pre and post results. Statistical significance shows whether the result is or is not likely attributable to chance. The significance value must be less than .05 for a significant difference. If the significance value is greater than .05, there is not a significant difference.

A total of 155 parents completed both post-surveys and pre-surveys. The pre-surveys were administered at the beginning of the Spring 2012 program and the post-surveys were administered at the end of the Spring 2012 program in English, Hmong, Karen, and Spanish, at 10 school sites, as illustrated in Table 2 and Table 3. No Somali language sessions were held in Spring 2012.

2. Language (n=155)

English	54%
Hmong	18%
Karen	12%
Spanish	16%

3. SPPS Parent Academy sites

American Indian Magnet

Benjamin E. Mays International Magnet

Farnsworth Aerospace Lower

Galtier Magnet Elementary

Hazel Park Preparatory Academy

Maxfield Magnet

Mississippi Creative Arts Magnet

Museum Magnet

Riverview West Side

World Cultures Magnet

Along with survey development, Wilder Research programmed an online data entry tool (via Survey Monkey), analyzed, and reported the data. Limitations to the evaluation data include challenges with the data collection and entry processes by SPPS (staff experienced challenges with time and capacity in administration of surveys, survey identification numbers were not linked to specific parents, and staff faced challenges, in particular, with data entry). Please see the Issues to Consider section of this report for overall recommendations in moving forward with future evaluations.

Findings

In Parent Academy’s Spring 2012 session, classes were offered only for parents of pre-kindergarten and elementary school students. The survey asked parents to identify their oldest elementary school-aged child and to answer questions based on their experiences with this child only. The oldest elementary school-aged child’s year in school spanned from pre-kindergarten through grade six. One-fifth (21%) of parents identified a child in grade six. Few participating parents listed a child in pre-kindergarten (2%).

4. Child’s year in school (n=154)

Pre-Kindergarten	2%
Kindergarten	8%
1 st	11%
2 nd	16%
3 rd	14%
4 th	14%
5 th	10%
6 th	21%

Parents are asked about the one most important thing they hope to learn in Parent Academy at the beginning of the program. Many parents listed more than one hope. The themes that emerged most frequently were the desires to help their child get to college (26%), to better support their child’s education both currently and in the future (23%), and to better understand and navigate the school system (14%). Following are example comments from these top themes. A full list of themes is available in the Appendix.

Most important thing hoped to learn at Parent Academy (n=135)

Help get child to college (26%, n=35)

I hope so much that my children will get to go to college.

I want more information on how to successfully send my sons off to college without all the barriers that are pretty common with young African American males.

Better support child’s education currently and in the future (23%, n=31)

Attending Parent Academy – I believe it will benefit myself and my children because I will get to know information on how to help my children learn.

I hope so much that this training will help me to understand my children’s learning situation and support them to be self-sustainable to maneuver their own future education.

Better understand and navigate school system (14%, n=19)

The important reason I enrolled for this is because my experiences in learning or schooling in my country is quietly different from here and [I] am really enjoying the Parent Academy and learning how to prepare my kids to the future.

My hope for attending Parent Academy is to understand how the school system functions and to be able to support my children in their learning more over time to see my children grow up to become responsible adults.

Based on findings from pre- and post-survey data, many hopes that parents described were accomplished. The following sections explore whether there are significant knowledge or behavior changes after participation in the Parent Academy program.

Relationship with child

Parents report having a strong relationship with their child. In both the pre-survey and the post-survey, the majority of parents report that they ask how their child is doing in school “every day or most days” or “once or twice per week” in the 2011-2012 school year. Very few parents ask their children “once or twice per month” or less often. There is no significant difference in this behavior between the pre-survey and post-survey results, according to the pair samples t-test (sig. value: .952), because pre-survey behavior indicates things were already quite good in this area.

5. Frequency in asking child how well he or she is doing in school

	Pre (n=151)	Post (n=153)	English Pre (n=83)	English Post (n=83)	Non- English Pre (n=68)	Non- English Post (n=70)
Every day or most days	85%	71%	93%	85%	75%	71%
Once or twice per week	9%	23%	2%	12%	16%	24%
Once or twice per month	4%	4%	2%	2%	6%	3%
Once or twice this school year	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	4%
Never	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%

However, there is a significant difference in non-English speaking parents’ reporting of whether they understand how to support their child in developing good self-esteem (sig.

value: .004). Before the Parent Academy session, sixteen percent of non-English speaking parents report not knowing how to support their child’s self-esteem. After the session, very few non-English speaking parents felt like they did not know how to do this (3%).

6. Understanding how to support child in developing good self-esteem

	Pre (n=151)	Post (n=153)	English Pre (n=82)	English Post (n=82)	Non- English Pre (n=69)	Non- English Post (n=71)
Yes	87%	97%	89%	96%	84%	97%
No	13%	3%	11%	4%	16%	3%

Relationship with school

Before attending Parent Academy, about three-fifths (62%) of parents agreed they understood and were able to navigate the public school system. The proportion of parents who agreed after attending the program rose significantly (sig. value: .000) to over four-fifths of parents (83%) by the time of the post-survey.

7. Understanding and ability to navigate the public school system

	Pre (n=147)	Post (n=151)	English Pre (n=81)	English Post (n=82)	Non- English Pre (n=67)	Non- English Post (n=69)
Yes	62%	83%	70%	91%	51%	72%
No	38%	17%	28%	9%	49%	28%

Furthermore, non-English speaking parents show a significant difference in both knowledge and behavior regarding talking with their child’s principal for reasons other than disciplinary or behavioral issues (sig. value: .003). Most significantly, non-English speaking parents who report they had not talked to their principal, but felt they knew how to do this rose by a wide margin (22% to 56%).

Parents did not, however, show a significant difference in their knowledge or behavior with talking to their child’s teacher for reasons other than disciplinary or behavioral issues (sig. value: .126). Though, nearly three-quarters (72%) of parents already knew how and had done this in both the pre and the post data. Please see Tables 8-9 on the following page for more detailed information.

8. Talked with child’s principal for reasons other than child’s disciplinary or behavioral issues

	Pre (n=152)	Post (n=153)	English Pre (n=83)	English Post (n=83)	Non- English Pre (n=69)	Non- English Post (n=70)
Yes, I have done this	41%	46%	55%	65%	23%	23%
No, I haven’t done this, but I know how	26%	42%	30%	30%	22%	56%
No, I haven’t done this, and I don’t know what this is	18%	8%	11%	2%	36%	16%
I am not sure if I did this	7%	4%	4%	2%	19%	6%

9. Talked with child’s teacher for reasons other than child’s disciplinary or behavioral issues

	Pre (n=151)	Post (n=152)	English Pre (n=83)	English Post (n=83)	Non- English Pre (n=68)	Non- English Post (n=69)
Yes, I have done this	72%	72%	83%	88%	57%	52%
No, I haven’t done this, but I know how	11%	22%	11%	11%	10%	35%
No, I haven’t done this, and I don’t know what this is	9%	3%	5%	0%	15%	6%
I am not sure if I did this	9%	4%	1%	1%	18%	7%

After school activities

After attending Parent Academy, nearly all parents believe extracurricular activities are an important part of their child’s education (94% to 98%). There is a significant difference between the pre and post data for non-English speaking parents (sig. value: .011).

10. Believe extracurricular activities are an important part of my child’s education

	Pre (n=148)	Post (n=153)	English Pre (n=81)	English Post (n=82)	Non- English Pre (n=68)	Non- English Post (n=71)
Yes	94%	98%	95%	98%	91%	99%
No	6%	2%	4%	2%	9%	1%

Regarding after school reading activities, however, there is no significant difference in parents' behavior before or after attending Parent Academy (sig. value: .152). The majority of parents report reading with their child every day or most days or once or twice per week in both the pre and the post surveys. Table 11 illustrates these results in the following page.

11. Frequency reading with child or setting aside time for reading at home

	Pre (n=153)	Post (n=152)	English Pre (n=84)	English Post (n=83)	Non- English Pre (n=69)	Non- English Post (n=69)
Every day or most days	55%	58%	57%	59%	52%	57%
Once or twice per week	33%	34%	30%	35%	38%	39%
Once or twice per month	7%	5%	7%	5%	6%	4%
Once or twice this school year	3%	1%	4%	1%	3%	0%
Never	2%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%

Overall, parents also show no significant difference in behavior in the pre and post survey results when it comes to homework help frequency (sig. value: .423). English-speaking parents show a significant difference in homework routine frequency though (sig. value: .031). The majority of parents do homework-related activities with their child either every day or most days or once or twice per week.

12. Frequency helping child with homework or finding homework help for child

	Pre (n=153)	Post (n=152)	English Pre (n=84)	English Post (n=83)	Non- English Pre (n=69)	Non- English Post (n=69)
Every day or most days	70%	68%	70%	73%	70%	61%
Once or twice per week	21%	22%	21%	23%	20%	20%
Once or twice per month	7%	8%	6%	4%	7%	13%
Once or twice this school year	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Never	2%	1%	2%		3%	3%

13. Frequency following a homework routine for child

	Pre (n=149)	Post (n=151)	English Pre (n=84)	English Post (n=84)	Non- English Pre (n=65)	Non- English Post (n=67)
Every day or most days	70%	71%	66%	70%	77%	72%
Once or twice per week	21%	23%	24%	23%	17%	24%
Once or twice per month	3%	3%	5%	6%	0%	1%
Once or twice this school year	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Never	5%	1%	5%	0%	6%	1%

Getting to college

Although Parent Academy attendees' children are in elementary school, the frequency with which parents talk to their child about the importance of attending college and about their child's career interests and future plans is high in both the pre and post survey data. Many parents talk to their child about these subjects either every day or most days or once or twice per week. After attending Parent Academy, there is not a significant change in this behavior when it comes to talking about college (sig. value: .858) or about career interests (sig. value: .752).

14. Frequency talking to child about the importance of attending college or other schooling after high school

	Pre (n=150)	Post (n=153)	English Pre (n=83)	English Post (n=84)	Non- English Pre (n=67)	Non- English Post (n=69)
Every day or most days	47%	40%	47%	49%	46%	29%
Once or twice per week	28%	34%	22%	24%	36%	46%
Once or twice per month	15%	19%	18%	23%	10%	14%
Once or twice this school year	9%	2%	7%	1%	1%	3%
Never	6%	5%	6%	4%	6%	7%

15. Frequency talking to child about career interests and future plans

	Pre (n=153)	Post (n=154)	English Pre (n=84)	English Post (n=84)	Non- English Pre (n=69)	Non- English Post (n=69)
Every day or most days	45%	39%	44%	46%	46%	30%
Once or twice per week	28%	32%	23%	27%	35%	38%
Once or twice per month	16%	23%	20%	19%	12%	28%
Once or twice this school year	8%	3%	11%	4%	6%	3%
Never	6%	3%	2%	4%	1%	3%

Parents do, however, show significant changes in other areas of knowledge and behaviors that will enable them to help their child get to college. In terms of knowing how to help prepare their child for the MCA tests, under half (44%) knew how to help their child prior to attending Parent Academy. After attending the program, over three-quarters (76%) report knowing how to help their child prepare for the MCA tests. This pre-post data is significant (sig. value: .000).

16. Know how to help child prepare for the MCA tests

	Pre (n=147)	Post (n=150)	English Pre (n=81)	English Post (n=80)	Non- English Pre (n=66)	Non- English Post (n=70)
Yes	44%	76%	37%	76%	52%	76%
No	56%	24%	63%	24%	48%	24%

Parents also show a significant change in knowledge, if not behavior, when it comes to reviewing their child's CUM file (sig. value: .000). Half of parents had not done this, and did not know what a CUM file was prior to attending Parent Academy (50%). After attending the program, very few report still not knowing what a CUM file is (9%).

17. Reviewed child's CUM file

	Pre (n=147)	Post (n=148)	English Pre (n=82)	English Post (n=81)	Non- English Pre (n=66)	Non- English Post (n=68)
Yes, I have done this	15%	23%	18%	16%	11%	31%
No, I haven't done this, but I know how	14%	59%	16%	69%	12%	46%
No, I haven't done this, and I don't know what this is	50%	9%	50%	6%	50%	12%
I am not sure if I did this	20%	9%	16%	7%	26%	12%

Parents show a significant difference in both knowledge and behavior when it comes to reviewing the Academic Standards for their child’s grade (sig. value: .000). Before the program, two-thirds (66%) of parents had done this or at least knew how. After the program, most parents (93%) report having done this or at least knowing how.

18. Reviewed Academic Standards for child’s grade

	Pre (n=152)	Post (n=151)	English Pre (n=82)	English Post (n=81)	Non-English Pre (n=70)	Non-English Post (n=70)
Yes, I have done this	53%	74%	48%	73%	59%	74%
No, I haven’t done this, but I know how	13%	19%	15%	16%	10%	21%
No, I haven’t done this, and I don’t know what this is	25%	5%	28%	7%	21%	3%
I am not sure if I did this	10%	3%	10%	4%	10%	1%

Parents also show a significant difference in both knowledge and behavior regarding the review of their child’s report card or transcript (sig. value: .003). Before the program, nearly four-fifths (79%) of parents had done this or knew how. After the program, most parents (94%) had done this or knew how.

19. Reviewed child’s report card or transcript

	Pre (n=150)	Post (n=152)	English Pre (n=83)	English Post (n=83)	Non-English Pre (n=68)	Non-English Post (n=69)
Yes, I have done this	71%	83%	78%	88%	62%	77%
No, I haven’t done this, but I know how	8%	11%	6%	7%	10%	14%
No, I haven’t done this, and I don’t know what this is	17%	4%	14%	4%	21%	4%
I am not sure if I did this	10%	3%	1%	1%	7%	4%

Parents show a significant difference in knowledge, if not behavior, regarding the review of their child’s MCA scores (sig. value: .002). Approximately three-fifths (58%) of parents had done this or knew how prior to the program. After Parent Academy, over four-fifths (85%) of parents had either done this or knew how.

20. Reviewed child's MCA scores

	Pre	Post	English	English	Non-	Non-
	(n=146)	(n=150)	Pre	Post	English	English
			(n=80)	(n=81)	Pre	Post
					(n=66)	(n=69)
Yes, I have done this	42%	42%	45%	46%	39%	38%
No, I haven't done this, but I know how	16%	43%	21%	41%	11%	45%
No, I haven't done this, and I don't know what this is	28%	5%	25%	7%	32%	3%
I am not sure if I did this	13%	10%	9%	6%	18%	14%

And finally, parents also show a significant difference in the review of the classes their child is taking in the 2011-2012 school year (sig. value: .000). Three-quarters (75%) of parents report having done this or knowing how before attending Parent Academy. After the program, most parents had done this or knew how (93%).

21. Reviewed classes child is taking this year

	Pre	Post	English	English	Non-	Non-
	(n=147)	(n=153)	Pre	Post	English	English
			(n=78)	(n=83)	Pre	Post
					(n=66)	(n=70)
Yes, I have done this	67%	73%	74%	75%	61%	71%
No, I haven't done this, but I know how	8%	20%	9%	20%	8%	20%
No, I haven't done this, and I don't know what this is	18%	5%	14%	4%	24%	6%
I am not sure if I did this	7%	2%	3%	1%	12%	3%

Parent Academy experience

At the end of the post-survey, parents are asked to rate their experience in the Parent Academy program. Overall, nearly all parents had an “excellent” or “good” experience (98%). Most notably, all participating parents would recommend Parent Academy to other parents in their community (100%). Nearly all parents had a positive experience with their facilitator(s), would take a class with their facilitator(s) again, and felt motivated to practice the concepts learned during the program. Tables 21-22 illustrate these findings.

22. Overall rating of Parent Academy experience (n=154)

	Overall (n=154)	English (n=74)	Non- English (n=70)
Excellent	84%	79%	90%
Good	14%	18%	10%
Fair	2%	4%	0%
Poor	0%	0%	0%

23. Experience with Parent Academy

	Overall	English	Non- English
Recommend Parent Academy to other parents in your community	100% (154)	100% (83)	100% (69)
Parent Academy motivated practice of concepts learned during sessions	98% (151)	96% (82)	100% (69)
Parent Academy facilitator was knowledgeable and approachable	99% (151)	98% (82)	100% (69)
Would take a class with this facilitator again	98% (151)	98% (81)	99% (70)

Additional information or resources

When asked what additional information or resources would be helpful in supporting their child, several themes emerged. Many parents offer only general praise (14%). Those with requests for additional information or resources most frequently ask for more help with schoolwork (15%), encompassing homework in general, particularly reading. Parents also mention a desire to expand Parent Academy in some way, whether it be more classes for parents or even a version that youth could attend and learn from (8%). Many parents also indicate they want more communication with school staff (8%). On the following page are example comments from these key themes. A full list of themes is available in the Appendix.

Additional information or resources helpful in supporting child (n=88)

Help with schoolwork (15%, n=13)

More homework resources and how to encourage and knowing the homework and how the school is teaching new strategies (i.e. for math).

Information on tutoring. Help with developing self-confidence.

Expansion of Parent Academy (8%, n=7)

Give every parent a chance to learn and understand, so that they can follow, help, and guide their children.

Parent Academy should continue and provide more information to parents that have had attended or those that have yet to attend, so that everyone gets the information.

More communication with school staff (8%, n=7)

Teacher and principal are easy to approach, but what about the rest? Can we improve the bus system?

To be able to help my child, I want school staff to contact me. I don't really know how to contact them. I want to help my child, but I don't really know.

Other comments or suggestions

Parents' other comments or suggestions frequent towards general praise (43%), strongly suggesting additional Parent Academy classes so parents can learn even more about how to help their child (23%), and suggestions for improving the Parent Academy curriculum (9%). Following are example comments from top themes. A full list of themes and associated responses is available in the Appendix.

Other comments or suggestions (n=87)

General praise (43%, n=37)

I've learned a lot. I will recommend every parent to attend. I'm a mother of three and there are a lot of parents out there not understanding how important it is.

Thanks to both facilitator and co-facilitator for providing us with materials and information and this is good for our children's future education. We hope someday we can reach our ultimate goal.

Additional Parent Academy classes for parents (23%, n=20)

I still want to be a part of Parent Academy. Because I want to learn and know more information about how my children will get to go to college. We still need more advice about higher education.

Parent Academy is very good. It will prepare parents now and in the future to help their children – to better life, schooling, learning, and self-growth. I hope this will continue in the future and I still want to learn more. Thank you very much.

Improve Parent Academy curriculum (9%, n=8)

Properly number the pages of parents' booklet even if handwritten. College posters for parents to hang at home to motivate kids to go to college. Staff or facilitator brief bio fact or contact sheet. Quick road to college/K-12 checklist step by step road map fact sheet. Fans/AC (hot).

Developing appropriate grade level homework strategies and applicability of the different lessons within homework. Tutoring information resources and website resources that will go over the homework concept and offer practice sites.

Issues to consider

Results indicate parents show a significant difference in reported knowledge after participating in the Parent Academy program. In particular, there is a significant difference in reported knowledge of activities that will help get their child to college. There is no significant difference in behavior of parents immediately after the program, in part because many parents are already highly involved with their child before participating in the program and also because the brevity of the program does not allow adequate time to pass to measure behavioral changes. We hope Saint Paul Public Schools will administer follow-up data collection with parents who participated in Parent Academy to measure changes in behavior six months or one year later.

Wilder Research recommends that the Saint Paul Public Schools' Parent Academy considers the following suggestions at the program level:

- SPPS's plan to roll Parent Academy out to the whole district is a step in the right direction. Several parents suggest continued expansion of the Parent Academy in additional capacities – explore these options to determine what type of expansion is most feasible, whether it be additional classes, information through ongoing forums, or creating a similar academy for youth to learn how to prepare for college. In particular, if Parent Academy is interested in affecting more behavioral changes, continued expansion of the program is a good idea.
- Involve SPPS teachers in the Parent Academy program, wherever possible. In addition to introducing parents to staff at the administration level, introducing parents to teachers at SPPS will continue integration of school, home, and community. Teachers may be able to offer perspectives that are important to parents and vice versa. This may help parents get used to talking to teachers and drive home the need to talk to their child's teachers – this, too, may increase behavioral changes after the program.
- Another suggestion to increase behavioral changes after the program is to integrate these behaviors into parents' homework. Instead of making this homework optional, parents must complete behavioral tasks as part of the program to graduate.
- Some parents also indicate that they need more information about what they can do right now to help their child get to college – for instance, offering continued resources for homework help after the conclusion of the program is important. Less important for parents of prekindergarten and elementary students is specific information about college applications or test scores, since the relevance of this information will change rapidly over the next decade.

- Tailor programming according to what areas may need more or less emphasis in English and non-English sessions based on pre-post findings.

Wilder Research also recommends that the Saint Paul Public Schools' Parent Academy consider the following suggestions at the evaluation level:

- Future evaluations should link the survey identification number to the identification of the exact participant and the exact child, prior to administration of the survey to avoid confusion in both data collection, entry, and analysis.
- To increase efficiency and accuracy of data entry, we recommend Wilder assumes responsibility for data entry in future evaluations. This will place less of a burden on SPPS and increase cost-effectiveness as well.
- Consider including evaluation of academic and related outcomes data for students of Parent Academy participants, such as MCA scores, GPA, attendance records, and discipline data (ODRs). Analyze these outcomes data while controlling for demographic characteristics, including grade level, gender, ethnicity, free/reduced price lunch status, special education status, ELL status, and MCA score (pre-intervention) or other academic indicators, by using a matched comparison group.
- Consider including evaluation that compare academic and related outcome data for Parent Academy participants with nonparticipants through a matching process. Matching involves identifying non-program participants who are comparable to program participants in essential characteristics. Individual students are matched on the basis of observed characteristics and baseline characteristics that program outcomes intend to influence.
- Consider follow up focus groups or interviews with participating parents following the program (e.g. six months or one year) to better understand long-term impact or ongoing needs.

Appendix

Parent Academy Pre-Survey – Pre-K and Elementary

Parent Academy Post-Survey – Pre-K and Elementary

Themes – Coded Response

Parent Academy Pre-Survey – Pre-K and Elementary

SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT ACADEMY PRE-K/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVALUATION – PRE

DATA ENTRY PERSONNEL – FILL THIS SECTION OUT BEFORE ENTERING DATA:

Survey ID #: _____

What school level is this evaluation for?

- ¹ Pre-K
 ² Elementary School
 ³ Middle School
 ⁴ High School

What session is this?

- ¹ Spring 2012
 ² Fall 2012
 ³ Winter 2013
 ⁴ Spring 2013

Saint Paul Public Schools Parent Academy is conducting a study to help find out how well the program is working for you and other parents like you. This survey is voluntary and confidential. **There is no right or wrong answer.** Your **honest** answers help us improve the program!

1. What is the name of your **Parent Academy facilitator**? _____

2. At what school is the Parent Academy program you are attending being held? _____

3. What is **your full name**? _____

4a. What is the age of your oldest child who is in **Pre-K or elementary school**? _____

4b. What is this **child's full name**? _____

4c. What **school** does this child attend? _____

4d. What grade is this child in?

- ¹ Pre-K
 ² Kindergarten
 ³ 1st grade
 ⁴ 2nd grade
⁵ 3rd grade
 ⁶ 4th grade
 ⁷ 5th grade
 ⁸ 6th grade

4e. What is this **child's Date of Birth (DOB)**? _____

4f. What is this **child's home address**? _____

During this school year, how often did you...	Every day or most days	Once or twice per week	Once or twice per month	Once or twice this school year	Never
5. Read with your child or set aside time for reading at home?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
6. Help your child with his/her homework or find homework help for your child?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
7. Follow a homework routine for your child?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
8. Ask your child how he/she is doing in school?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
9. Talk to your child about the importance of attending college or other schooling after high school?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
10. Talk to your child about her/his career interests and future plans?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵

For each question, please check one box that best matches your answer. **If you haven't done this or aren't familiar with what this is, then check "No". There is no right or wrong answer.**

	Yes	No
11. I understand and am able to navigate the public school system.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
12. I understand how to support my child in developing good self-esteem.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
13. I believe extracurricular activities are an important part of my child's education.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
14. I know how to help my child prepare for the MCA tests.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

For each question, please check one box that best matches your answer.

During this school year, have you completed the following activities?	Yes, I have done this	No, I haven't done this, but I know how	No, I haven't done this, and don't know what this is	I am not sure if I did this
15. Reviewed your child's CUM file?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
16. Reviewed the Academic Standards for your child's grade?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
17. Reviewed your child's report card/transcript?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
18. Reviewed your child's MCA scores?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
19. Reviewed the classes your child is taking this year?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
20. Talked with your child's principal for reasons other than your child's disciplinary or behavioral issues?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
21. Talked with your child's teacher for reasons other than your child's disciplinary or behavioral issues?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴

22. What is the one most important thing you hope to learn at Parent Academy?

Parent Academy Post-Survey – Pre-K and Elementary

SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT ACADEMY PRE-K/ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVALUATION – POST

DATA ENTRY PERSONNEL – FILL THIS SECTION OUT BEFORE ENTERING DATA:

Survey ID #: _____

What school level is this evaluation for?

- ¹ Pre-K ² Elementary School ³ Middle School ⁴ High School

What session is this?

- ¹ Spring 2012 ² Fall 2012 ³ Winter 2013 ⁴ Spring 2013

Saint Paul Public Schools Parent Academy is conducting a study to help find out how well the program is working for you and other parents like you. This survey is voluntary and confidential. **There is no right or wrong answer.** Your **honest** answers help us improve the program!

1. What is the name of your **Parent Academy facilitator**? _____

2. At what school is the Parent Academy program you are attending being held? _____

3. What is **your full name**? _____

4a. What is the age of your oldest child who is in **Pre-K or elementary school**? _____

4b. What is this **child's full name**? _____

4c. What **school** does this child attend? _____

4d. What grade is this child in?

- ¹ Pre-K ² Kindergarten ³ 1st grade ⁴ 2nd grade
⁵ 3rd grade ⁶ 4th grade ⁷ 5th grade ⁸ 6th grade

4e. What is this **child's Date of Birth** (DOB)? _____

4f. What is this **child's home address**? _____

During this school year, how often did you...	Every day or most days	Once or twice per week	Once or twice per month	Once or twice this school year	Never
5. Read with your child or set aside time for reading at home?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
6. Help your child with his/her homework or find homework help for your child?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
7. Follow a homework routine for your child?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
8. Ask your child how he/she is doing in school?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
9. Talk to your child about the importance of attending college or other schooling after high school?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
10. Talk to your child about her/his career interests and future plans?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵

For each question, please check one box that best matches your answer. **If you haven't done this or aren't familiar with what this is, then check "No". There is no right or wrong answer.**

	Yes	No
11. I understand and am able to navigate the public school system.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
12. I understand how to support my child in developing good self-esteem.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
13. I believe extracurricular activities are an important part of my child's education.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
14. I know how to help my child prepare for the MCA tests.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

For each question, please check one box that best matches your answer.

During this school year, have you completed the following activities?	Yes, I have done this	No, I haven't done this, but I know how	No, I haven't done this, and don't know what this is	I am not sure if I did this
15. Reviewed your child's CUM file?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
16. Reviewed the Academic Standards for your child's grade?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
17. Reviewed your child's report card/transcript?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
18. Reviewed your child's MCA scores?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
19. Reviewed the classes your child is taking this year?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
20. Talked with your child's principal for reasons other than your child's disciplinary or behavioral issues?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴
21. Talked with your child's teacher for reasons other than your child's disciplinary or behavioral issues?	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴

How was your experience in the Parent Academy program? Please check yes or no for each item.

	Yes	No
22. The Parent Academy facilitator was knowledgeable and approachable when I had a question.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
23. Parent Academy motivated me to practice the concepts I learned during the sessions.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
24. I would take a class with this facilitator again.	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

25. Overall, how would you rate your experience with Parent Academy?

- ¹ Excellent ² Good ³ Fair ⁴ Poor

26. Would you recommend Parent Academy to other parents like you?

- ¹ Yes
² No

27. What additional information or resources would be helpful in supporting your child?

28. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Themes – Coded Response

Most important thing hoped to learn at Parent Academy (n=135)

26% (35) Help get child to college

How to help my child stay in school and be successful to go to college.

What's necessary to prepare for college.

What it takes to prepare my daughter for college now.

How to prepare my kids for college and help them excel to a high level.

How to successfully prepare my children for college and keep them interested and excited about learning.

Step by step recommendations for using Public School programs to help ensure my kids go to college.

How to better guide my boys to get ideas and education on what I can do to help them get through school and go to college.

I want more information on how to successfully send my son off to college w/o all the barriers that are pretty common with young African American males.

I want my child to go to college so that he/she can help them in the future.

I want to learn one very important thing so that I can prepare my children to go to college.

I want to learn so that I can teach my child so that he/she can understand the rules on going to college.

I've learned some ideas that can help my children to go to college in the future.

Help all of my children so that they can graduate in college.

The most important thing that I'm preparing to learn in how to prepare my children for college in the future life. This is why I want to learn to encourage my children in their studies.

I want to help my child so that he/she can go to college.

We want to prepare and encourage the child to go to college. It's very important for the parents.

Attending Parent Academy my ultimate hope is to see my children going to college, know the resources, especially financial matters.

How to make sure I get the understanding and knowledge about everything my child needs for college.

Programs available (in advance) for kids to prepare for going to college.

Learn more good ideas about colleges and technical schools.

How to help pick out a good college and the value of having a high school diploma.

Learn more on how to help my child and take the right steps to go to the university.

My goal is to see my children going to college and for me to understand how the process work

Learn how to help my children to go to the university.

I hope so much that my children will get to go to college

Learn everything, how to help my children to go to college and i also want to learn

How to help my child develop good self-esteem, to show how important education/college is, and how to guide my child.

Learn inside and the outside of the school system to help my child get to college.

Help my child be successful in school and start thinking about college.

My hope for attending parent academy is to understand how the school system functions and able to help my family.as I understand I can also help my children in their learning and prepare them to go to college

To know what my children need to have a good education and go to university. Educate myself and know how to educate him.

The most important is to learn how to motivate my daughter to get better grades. My wish is for her to go to the university and get a master's degree.

I learned that going to college is very important and about Y-Charts. Why homework is so important.

Want to learn more ideas, so that I can help my child. To encourage him/her to go to college and have high self-esteem.

I need help with reading, homework, math and how to prepare for college.

23% (31) Better support child's education

How to help my grandson be successful in school.

To help me become a better parent as far as my child's education.

I hope the parents are prepared to help children education.

How I can help my child in school.

To be more prepared to help my child's learning. No matter what it is.

How to be most impactive and influent in my child's educational development.

How to teach my kids to succeed in school.

Everything that will help my kids more in school.

How to support my kids in their school and etc.

How to do better with my kids and their learning and so I know what's going on.

How to help my 2 kids exceed better and overcome being behind in school. My son especially.

My ultimate hope is for my child future education

My ultimate hope is for my children education

Attending parent academy, i believe it will benefit myself and my children because I will get to know information on how to help my children learn.

I have decided to attend this training so that i will understanding and how to support my child in their education. I will try my best to talk to my children that they will purse excellence their education

For my children education and their learning improvement

How to further identity areas in how I can be a better and supportive parent to help our daughter continue to strive in school.

How to get more involved in my child education

How to motivate and help my child to have a better academic development

The most valuable is that the children be more developed and have to a good education for the future.

I hope so much that this training will help me to understand my children learning situation and support than to be self-sustainable to maneuver their own future education

I want to learn how to better understand the school system and also I want to learn how to better support my child's educational needs.

Everything that my kids are learning and what's going on around school.

How to help my child with her homework and not get frustrated. How to prepare my child for college and help her get better grades, while making it fun for us.

Help my child be successful in school and start thinking about college.

I hope so much that this training will help me understand how my children function in school and encourage them to pursue excellence in their future and education.

To know what my children need to have a good education and go to university. Educate myself and know how to educate him.

1. Involve with the child education. 2. I want a good idea to help my family. 3. Collaborate with school.

I would like to learn more procedures or steps I can take to better my children's future and academics. What I can do to help.

I hope to learn how to help my child to be a netter student and continue to graduation.

To make sure that my children have a better education and to also make sure I understand my child's needs.

14% (19) Better understand and navigate school system

Comprehension and clear understanding of system education.

I want to learn to navigate the system better so that I can get the best help and activities for my child.

To learn about the school system expectations for my child and how to achieve them.

How the school system work. Help getting smaller classroom.

To learn more about the school and what programs are offered to me and my children. To help educate myself on the St. Paul School system.

What the public schools are thinking are important issues for the parents and public school systematic information that will help give a better insight in dealing with the public schools.

Learn and understand the education system in the us to help my children in their goals

I want to know where my daughter stands in her education all the way up until she graduates and I'm waiting to learn a lot about Parent Academy.

How to help my child school learn more things different thing to help my children

I want to learn how to better understand the school system and also I want to learn how to better support my child's educational needs.

Everything that my kids are learning and what's going on around school.

Learn inside and the outside of the school system to help my child get to college.

To learn more about the school system (Special Ed.) and my way to reach out to other parents to get more involved with school and also learn how to connect with my kids more, because you can never learn too much on that.

My hope for attending parent academy is to understand how the school system functions and able to help my family.as I understand I can also help my children in their learning and prepare them to go to college

I hope so much that this training will help me understand how my children function in school and encourage them to pursue excellence in their future and education.

Learn how the SPPS works, the grades and help support my children as much as i can.

The important reason I enrolled for this is because my experiences in learn or schooling in my country is quietly different from here and am really enjoying the parent academy and learn how to prepare my kids to the future.

Learn ways to help my child succeed. Learn what MCA's are and things like that.

My hope for attending parent academy is to understand how the school system functions and to be able to support my children in their learning more over to see my children grow up to become a responsible adult.

13% (17) Better engage/interest child

A way to teach my child that anything she puts her mind to she can in a way that she understands.

How to help my children stay focused and interested in school. Making a plan for a daily schedule starting now that we can follow throughout their schooling.

Build good self-esteem for my 2nd grade daughter and for my other 2 children ages 5 and 2.

Motivation techniques.

Help to engage my daughters in reading.

How to get my kids interested in learning.

How to help my child succeed and also have fun at school.

I need to know the right path to achieve successful and happy children

How I can help my child to want to get more prepared and to make smart choices

To find other parents in my age group. To learn new ways to help my children develop good behavioral skills.

How to help my child with her homework and not get frustrated. How to prepare my child for college and help her get better grades, while making it fun for us.

Help my child improve in school with reading and math. Help give my child a more positive look at school.

How to help my child develop good self-esteem, to show how important education/college is, and how to guide my child.

Want to learn more ideas, so that I can help my child. To encourage him/her to go to college and have high self-esteem.

I want to know how is my child doing. Is he/she falling behind? Is he/she shy? Is he/she reading good? And I need help.

To make sure that my children have a better education and to also make sure I understand my child's needs.

How to successfully prepare my children for college and keep them interested and excited about learning.

12% (16) Better support child in general

To learn how to help my son.

I hope to learn skills that help my children to become successful in all things that they try and are capable of.

How to help my daughter succeed.

How to better my child's life at being successful every day.

How to support my child better.

Growth and additional skills of knowledge to help my child soar through school and beyond.

Be more prepared to help my children more

Be attentive to my son

I want to learn so that I can teach my children.

How to help my child develop good self-esteem, to show how important education/college is, and how to guide my child.

Obtain all the information that they can propose for or children's success

Learn how the SPPS works, the grades and help support my children as much as i can.

Learn ways to help my child succeed. Learn what MCA's are and things like that.

How to support my child to reach their goals.

I hope to finish the Parent Academy class so I can teach my children and they can do the same me.

I want to learn ideas on how to help encourage my children so that they can be better than in the past.

8% (11) Better support child's future

I will be support for my daughter's future.

I've got some ideas on how to help my children in the future.

To stay constantly with just knowing the facts of being able to show my children better for the future.

I have decided to attend parent academy hoping to be a responsible parent who support in their education and prepare them for future career

My hope is to see my children grow up and have a good life this my ultimate hope as a parent

I hope so much that this training will help me understand how my children function in school and encourage them to purse excellence in their future and education.

For his future because I am prepared and they one prepared as well.

The important reason I enrolled for this is because my experiences in learn or schooling in my country is quietly different from here and am really enjoying the parent academy and learn how to prepare my kids to the future.

My hope for attending parent academy is to understand how the school system functions and to be able to support my children in their learning more over to see my children grow up to become a responsible adult.

How to help my child become a professional

I've decided to attend parent academy for my children myself and our future. I understand that this training is designed to help parents to understand how to navigate and help their child homework, reading motivation, and advice and how to discipline the child.

8% (11) Learn everything

All the good stuff.

Anything and everything.

I want everything.

I want to learn. (2)

Everything they teach here is very important and I gained more.

Open to all ideas.

I want to learn everything I need to know about being a mother to my child.

Learn more.

Learn from everybody a little bit.

Education is very important for parents.

6% (8) Improve community support

How we can build a better community for our kids.

How to use my community to help my children have a very successful learning environment.

How to collaborate more with my child and the school they are attending.

The ability to help support the younger parents.

Getting more parents involved in school activities.

To find other parents in my age group. To learn new ways to help my children develop good behavioral skills.

To learn more about the school system (Special Ed.) and my way to reach out to other parents to get more involved with school and also learn how to connect with my kids more, because you can never learn too much on that.

1. Involve with the child education. 2. I want a good idea to help my family. 3. Collaborate with school.

4% (5) Communicate with school staff

I want to know how to ask the teacher, what is right to ask the question.

I want to learn the question on what to ask the principal about my children's future.

I want to know how to ask the teachers how to seek help.

My hope for attending parent academy is to understand more and to know the resources and who to talk to when I need help

Regarding to my children learning to meet with teacher when necessary create better communication to lesson barrier.

3% (4) Improve child's grades

Learn about my kids grades and see if there are improved.

How to help my child with her homework and not get frustrated. How to prepare my child for college and help her get better grades, while making it fun for us.

Help my child improve in school with reading and math. Help give my child a more positive look at school.

The most important is to learn how to motivate my daughter to get better grades. My wish is for her to go to the university and get a master's degree.

3% (4) Specific skills

How to help with homework

Communication and discipline

I need help with reading, homework, math and how to prepare for college.

I've decided to attend parent academy for my children myself and our future. I understand that this training is designed to help parents to understand how to navigate and help their child homework, reading motivation, and advice and how to discipline the child.

1% (1) Other

Does Parent Academy teach biblical sound parenting principles of success?

Additional information or resources helpful in supporting child (n=88)

15% (13) Help with schoolwork

Place to get help with the kids work.

Homework hotline.

Helps with reading and homework.

I help them read, do homework and visit library.

Information on tutoring. Help with developing self confidence.

More homework resources and how to encourage and knowing the homework and how the school is teaching new strategies- i.e. for math.

Reading levels

Reading level

Helps with reading and homework.

I help them read, do homework and visit library.

Reading, writing and doing math.

Having the school library set up so that my children can find out if a book is their independent guided reading level.

Reading, writing and doing math.

14% (12) General praise

I really appreciate to be accepted into this program because I get more experience about U.S.A. education and also the area of discipline because it was different from my country.

Our group was wonderful with resources.

There is no additional information needed facilitator very knowledgeable on every subject and questions.

The information was knowledgeable. Was very helpful.

I think that Ms. Abrams and Ms. Flowers hit it on the spot, excellent in making sure you understood.

Nothing right now, all the areas were covered.

This has made me more involved in my child education and more consistent on my role as being a parent.

The facilitators are helpful, knowledgeable and understanding. I like parent involvement, but a lot of parents went off task too often, distracting the class. But I would attend again. Thanks for the opportunity.

I learn many things from Parent Academy and I believe it helps me and my children. Now, I begin to understand how to help my child go to college.

I have all the information that I need to help in everything to my children and I have a good collaboration with other parents.

This class helps me know how to help my kids more than before.

Don't have anything but I want to say that this is good. This makes me see more.

8% (7) Expand Parent Academy

I want to know more about Parent Academy at high school level.

Parent Academy should continue and provide more information to parents that have had attended or those that have yet to attend; so that everyone gets the information.

I want my children to learn this type of information too.

Give every parent a chance to learn and understand so that they can follow, help and guide their children.

Provide more training to serve as a reminder. Getting the opportunity to attend once in a while make us forget the information. More training, more learning and we can better provide support to our children.

More Parent Academy classes

Give every parent a chance to experience Parent Academy so that they can help and guide their children.

8% (7) More communication with school staff

Keep communication with the teacher. I learned how to help them at home and how to get involved in school.

Working with teachers often talks to the principle. Use every resource and information I got.

Ways of opening the communication gap without them like everything a child is wrong or bad, when someone calls their name.

To be able to help my child, I want school staff to contact me. I don't really know how to contact them. I want to help me child, but I don't really know.

Talk to their teachers so we can motivate them to go to the University

Teacher and principal are easy to approach what about the rest? Can we improve the bus system?

Know more about the exams that they take to prepare them with more information through the school or teachers.

7% (6) Suggestions for the classroom/teachers

More experience and parent and teacher in classroom

I would like our schools to have more teachers in our kid's classrooms as their classrooms seem to be out of control and the class is full of kids who need attention.

The teacher can teach a little bit slower so the child can learn.

Would like the teacher to be very patient.

The teacher should find resources ides to teach or mind easy for kids to understand.

Need the teacher to go slow if my kid slow of something.

7% (6) College

I want to have college graduated guest to talk about their experiences at college.

College tour late when he's old enough to remember.

Remember the importance in going to college on an everyday basis.

Here all the necessary information to arrive at college.

Inform our children to help them go to the University.

Talk to their teachers so we can motivate them to go to the University

6% (5) More opportunities for parental involvement

The parents can be more involved at school?

More experience and parent and teacher in classroom

Developing a parent support group in each school.

Maybe have more support between parents and the community.

We need a better involvement, participation, and better communication amount parents and students.

6% (5) More fine arts/languages

I would like that in this school they would offer painting courses. Because like always wanted my children to make paintings to decorate my bedroom with.

I would like for there to be a dance class at my school Riverview.

They like to draw and I would like something to help bring them ahead in their career. They are doing very well. Thank you

I wish there is a Hmong class for our children, so that they can learn reading/ writing and their oral language.

Go to summer school and camping; go have fun with the family.

6% (5) More information about SPPS

A hand out with school contact numbers.

Having more information on the Public School system.

What schools specialize in behaviors.

Programs- more info about GT.

Have more resources on Academic activities outside of school.

5% (4) More advice for communication with child

Ways to talk to your child not many people know how to communicate effectively.

Ways to talk to your child.

We need a better involvement, participation, and better communication amount parents and students.

Getting them into more educational classes to better their education and also learn how to deal with them behaviorally when it's needed and also know about the CUM file.

5% (4) Better engage/interest child

Motivate them to get prepared.

How to motivate him more to stay in school.

Information on tutoring. Help with developing self-confidence.

Motivate and help kids in their studies. Help them to take advanced classes.

3% (3) Advanced/additional classes for child

Motivate and help kids in their studies. Help them to take advanced classes.

The programs they offer to students to keep studying and graduate better prepared with better grades.

Getting them into more educational classes to better their education and also learn how to deal with them behaviorally when it's needed and also know about the CUM file.

3% (3) Any more information

I'm always open to anything the schools have to offer my children.

Receive more information by mail to help our children.

That there always be information for parents.

3% (3) Special needs

Helping teachers and parents implement better ways helping special learning needs in children.

Add stuff for special ed.

More options for children with learning disabilities.

3% (3) Parent Academy logistics

I hope this kind of training will continue in the future. However, it will be best if it changes to Saturday instead of weekday. The information I learned helps me tremendously in helping my children.

I would like to ask, if possible, find us some material, translated that you think will benefit parents; otherwise it will be very, very difficult to understand the materials. I know my children's short falls and sometimes I just don't know how to help them.

Have more time with each subject to understand completely each subject for example the school system that is so complicate.

1% (1) Nothing

Once I have started using the things I have learned, I'll know what more information I need.

13% (11) Other

First and foremost Jesus the Christ good God news the Holy Bible, prayer, steady Bible and Bible studies :mediating on, in, to and through Gods personal name, written word, scripture(s) Gods ways, Gods truth and Gods life (being eternal life).

Mean the styles of a child's learning knowledge

I help my kids little.

I hope that my children's education and academics will be improving.

I would like support for my children. Focus to learn and education all the time.

I will support for my daughters future education

Mini book: highlighter useful to kid to understand the process and how it works and can work for them.

I think the bases for the support of the children is in the school.

Teacher and principal are easy to approach what about the rest? Can we improve the bus system?

Getting them into more educational classes to better their education and also learn how to deal with them behaviorally when it's needed and also know about the CUM file.

I would like more psychological help in my school to help kids have a better academic development.

Other comments or suggestions (n=87)**43% (37) General praise**

I have enjoyed my experience here.

Keep up the good work.

Enjoy every class.

Program was excellent for me!

I just want to thank you all for this opportunity. I enjoyed myself and learner a lot of things.

Yes- This was a very insightful class. Full of supportive resources.

I really think this was great opportunity for all parents especially interacting with other parents from difference backgrounds.

This class was a great opportunity for us as parents. Mr. Robinson was great. The things he taught have helped me look more into my children future. He did a great job advising us to different opportunities. I do recommend him for further teaching opportunity.

Mark was a great facilitator kept all the class engaged through the material at a great pace making sure everyone understood.

I liked the class. It was very helpful information and I enjoyed the instructor's enthusiasm.

This program should be offered/ recommended to other parents who have children going to Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary.

None, but fantastic.

None- but the facilitator was great and very knowledgeable. He was a good teacher.

I've learned a lot, I will recommend every parent to attend. I'm a mother of three and there a lot of parents out there are not understanding how important it is.

Keep up the good work!

Wonderful opportunity, learned a lot of new things to assist my children with being successful.

This class is very helpful. Its helps me to review my knowledge and learn from other parents.

They are wonderful facilitators.

Keep up the good work.

Well I think it was very fun and very excellent and I would do it again. Thank you for this class.

Everything, I would like it.

I think Leo was the best he was straight forward open minded and very resourceful.

Good to have parent class. That's a good thing.

I enjoyed Parent Academy.

I really like Parent Academy.

My wish for facilitator: From today onward, I wish that your family will have a good health, prosper and moreover to find a life partner soon. Thank you.

Thanks to both facilitator and co-facilitator for providing us with materials and information and this is good for our children's future education. We hope someday we can reach our ultimate goal.

I want to say that my attending Parent Academy it helps me a lot and enhance my understanding on children's learning. Thank you!

Thank you very much for all the information and please continue teaching the parents.

The P.A. was great help for me and my child. I learned things I didn't know and now it's easier to help my child.

Thank you for providing these classes.

I only want to thank you for your time and effort in informing us how to get involved in the education for our children!

The teacher was very special and I thank her for all her effort for us to be informed on the studies of our children. Thanks! Thank you for everything. Sincerely Patricia Mtz.

Only to give thanks for thinking about all the Latinos so that they reach their goals and get ahead and please don't stop supporting us because we need it greatly.

Parent Academy is really good for parents. It helps parents to know how to prepare and help their children going to university. I think, as much as parents need to know, student themselves need to know this as well.

I think that everything is great with the Parent Academy. I think that this was a great class to come up with.

Thank you for worrying about educating us and I feel happy to be a part of Parent Academy.

23% (20) Additional Parent Academy classes for parents

I still want to be a part of Parent Academy. Because I want to learn and know more information about how my children will get to go to college. We still need more advice about higher education.

I still want to attend Parent Academy because I learned so many new things about school and how to help my children in their education. I want to learn more and I hope and believe that every parent should get to experience Parent Academy.

My inputs- Parent Academy is really good and please find ways for us to get to attend in the future sessions. Thank you!

Parent Academy is very good. It will prepare parents now and in the future to help their children, to better life, schooling, learning and self-growths. I hope this will continue in the future and I still want to leaner more. Thank you very much.

I wish that in the future I will get to attend Parent Academy again because I want to understand the information.

I want to know and leaner more information in the future.

I would like to see Parent Academy once a month and an hour pre class. Parents should engage in activities, Q &A and quiz. Provide a prize.

I would like to see Parent Academy once a month and an hour per class. Parents should engage in activities- writing and reading, Q&A, quiz with prizes.

Provide Parent Academy once a week, an hour per class. Give parents to practice writing, reading, and doing quizzes with prizes.

I hope these classes continue because this helps to learn everything about how to help your children to go University.

Please keep having programs at Riverview Elementary to keep learning to way to help my children. Thank you.

Thanks very much to my facilitator, teachers who have done an excellent job. I hope there are more programs to keep participating. Thank you.

I would like the oppportunity to participate in this academy or another that keeps helping me prepare my children to go to college.

Have more classes of Parent Academy again.

Thank you for the support by the teachers to the parents. And that there be more programs like this one.

I want to learn more so that I can get more ideas.

Interested in having information and help for parents.

I would like other information or some kind of resources to help us help our kids.

I wish for more Parent Academy for our Hmong Parents go that they know how to help their children.

I would like to have this kind of class once a month and can limit to on hour per class.

9% (8) Improve Parent Academy curriculum

Developing appropriate grade level homework strategies and applicability of the different lessons within homework. Tutoring info resources and website resources that will go over the homework concept and offer practice sites.

Properly # the pages of parents' booklet even f handwritten. College posters for parents to hang at home to motivate kids to go to college. Staff/ Facilitator brief bio fact/ contact sheet. Quick road to college K-12 checklist step by step road map fact sheet. Fans/ AC (hot).

Have more resources and hands on activities.

I wish we can have more time to ask questions to the principles (Let's have a 2 1/2 hour session just with the principle).

Parents school engage in activity- writing, Q and A, Quiz or test then give a prize- first second and third place with complementary prize.

Give more information to help and support our kids to reach their goals.

College is very important but some students truly have learning disabilities need to know how to help them with their struggles; when they are unable to retain information.

Yes, that they always be clear with all the information and that it be understandable.

6% (5) Improve Parent Academy logistics

Very great experience. Amazing facilitators. I can only suggest starting the program at the beginning of the year to get off to a good start.

I enjoyed the class. But the class runs kind of late.

Try and earlier time frame.

When we are planning to go to the University that needs to be the same day we are coming for the classes.

While it's nice to be able to be there for other parents, I felt a lot of time was spent being a support group, instead of being Parent Academy- learning how to be a better parent being involved with our children's education.

5% (4) Nothing

None at all.

No. (2)

None.

3% (3) Expand Parent Academy to other schools

I suggest that every school should have Parent Academy.

My opinion and input is I want to see Parent Academy to have a class at Como Senior High School. I want to learn information at high school level. Thank you!

I would like to suggest that student themselves should experience Parent Academy so that they know what they need to do in their future education endeavors. One more advice- Every school should have Parent Academy and every parent should learn.

3% (3) Exclude college information from elementary level Parent Academy

Want no college stuff yet only what the child will do next after elementary.

No college stuff only want what's the next step for child to take.

Keep the Parent Academy separate from each level cause when you mix all the elementary to college so parent get confuse.

3% (3) Expand Parent Academy to students

They should have a mini- student academy.

I would like to suggest that student themselves should experience Parent Academy so that they know what they need to do in their future education endeavors. One more advice- Every school should have Parent Academy and every parent should learn.

Parent Academy is really good for parents. It helps parents to know how to prepare and help their children going to university. I think, as much as parents need to know, student themselves need to know this as well.

6% (5) Other

God bless you in Jesus the Christ name amen. (Let it be) to you God be the glory: alleluia Hosanna Maranatha amen, Chris Jesus is, was and is to come!

I believe as parents we need to be more involved in the homework and also in school our kids. Go meetings that the schools have to learn more.

It would be really helpful to support our students academically by providing them well qualified teachers that truly care about our students' success.

More marketing?

I would have liked for there to have been more Latino Parents. I think that we need more propaganda for these programs
