



Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement

Sponsored by

The Alabama PIRC,

A project of the Alabama Parent Education Center

The Academy includes one orientation session and five one day sessions over the course of one academic year. Participants will include teams of parents* who have been identified as leaders of parent involvement efforts in their communities and teachers. Each team will have 3 members and each member should apply individually. **Preference is given to teams with at least two parents and one teacher.** Participants will enhance their skills so that they may help other parents in becoming true partners in the education of their children. Every participant will work in conjunction with his or her school community to create a leadership project that will enhance student achievement and increase parental involvement.

**Please note that the Alabama Parent Education Center defines "parents" as biological, adoptive, or foster parents, custodial grandparents, and those who have legal guardianship of a child enrolled in an Alabama K-12 public or private school.*

Goals of the Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement:

- 🍏 To support parents as partners and advocates for getting the best education for all children.
- 🍏 To advocate for parents as decision makers in schools and resources for creating excellent schools.
- 🍏 To enhance leadership skills that aid in increased parent-to-parent mentoring.
- 🍏 To build capacity across Alabama for increased parent involvement related to student achievement.

Participants must attend the orientation session and all training sessions. Each team must complete a leadership project that is designed to increase parent involvement and support student achievement.

Orientation September 18, 2007

Session 1 TBA

Session 2 TBA

Session 3 TBA

Session 4 TBA

Graduation TBA

There is no cost to participate and each team will receive a stipend to implement their parent involvement project.

For more information call the Alabama PIRC at the Alabama Parent Education Center (334) 567-2252 or toll free in Alabama at www.alabamaparentcenter.com



Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement (APLE)?

APLE, facilitated by the Alabama Parent Education Center (the Alabama Parent Information and Resource Center funded primarily by the U. S. Department of Education), is a leadership series that will provide parents and guardians the skills necessary to increase parent leadership and involvement in their school or school district. The Alabama Parent Education Center defines “parents” as biological, adoptive, or foster parents, custodial grandparents, and those who have legal guardianship of a child enrolled in an Alabama K-12 public or private school.

What are the benefits of participation in APLE?

- 🍏 Parents will gain additional tools for supporting, monitoring and advocating for the educational needs of students.
- 🍏 An opportunity to increase the number of parents participating in the decision-making process at school.
- 🍏 An opportunity to address needs in student achievement and create safer school environments (Correlative data provided by Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp, authors of A New Wave of Evidence.)

What kinds of skills will APLE participants gain?

During the course of the Orientation and Training Sessions, APLE participants will:

- 🍏 Design a leadership project around student achievement or school safety.
- 🍏 Gain knowledge about best practices for supporting literacy and math at home.
- 🍏 Gain an understanding of Alabama standards and assessments for K-12 students.
- 🍏 Conduct research and analyze education data.
- 🍏 Develop skills in facilitating effective meetings, developing presentations, and implementing action plans to foster and enhance parent involvement and improve student achievement.
- 🍏 Gain an understanding of individual leadership styles.
- 🍏 Serve as a resource and mentor to other parents.

Who can participate?

The APLE will train ten teams. Each team will have three members, consisting of parents and teachers from the same school.

Is there a cost to participate in the APLE?

No! There is no cost to parents or teachers. Lunch will be provided and each team will receive a stipend to implement their project.

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Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement *Frequently Asked Questions*

What about my job?







Your work is very important. It is the means by which your family is cared for. The Alabama PIRC recognizes this. Therefore, every effort will be made to “recruit” your employer as a supporter of your parent involvement efforts. For accepted APLE applicants, the Alabama PIRC will provide a letter that outlines the dates of each APLE session, explains the purpose of the Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement, builds the case for increased parent involvement, and thanks your employer for being a good neighbor. We also recognize these employers on our website and newsletters.

How does a parent apply?

Those who wish to become a member of APLE should complete the attached application and reference forms. APLE participants are expected to be a part of a three member team. Each team should consist of at least one school professional and two parents. Each team member must apply individually.





How are participants selected?

APPLE participants are selected through the application process. Once the applications are received, they are scored (up to 100 points). In an effort to reach parents who have not always been represented in the past, additional points are awarded for (in no specific order):

-  *Having a teammate apply from the same school.*
-  *Parents from very rural or extremely urban areas.*
-  *Parents from Title I schools.*
-  *Parents of children who receive free or reduced lunches.*
-  *Fathers.*
-  *Parents with a first language other than English.*

What are the selection criteria?

Participants are selected on the basis of:

-  Demonstrated leadership potential (all applicants must submit a reference).
-  Interest and active participation in public schools.
-  Willingness to develop, plan and implement a leadership.
-  Ability to attend all training sessions and maintain communication with our staff.

What happens when the APLE is over?

APPLE participants are then enrolled in the APLE Network. As a member of the APLE network, participants will have access to the secure webpage with an electronic bulletin board, quarterly newsletters, access to the Alabama PIRC Lending Library, and ongoing support from the Alabama PIRC staff.

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Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement
Frequently Asked Questions

What is expected of APPLE Members?

In Phase A, you will:

- 🍏 Attend the Orientation Session and Training Session 1 and 2.
- 🍏 Get to know your colleagues and learn team-building skills.
- 🍏 Learn what's expected of participants.
- 🍏 Be expected to gather information about parent involvement and student achievement at your school/school district in between APPLE sessions.
- 🍏 Gain knowledge of the research and work of leading parent involvement experts such as Dr. Karen Mapp, Anne Henderson, and Dr. Joyce Epstein.
- 🍏 Collect basic information about parent involvement in your school.
- 🍏 Develop communication skills of interviewing/assessing and how to maximize different learning styles to increase team effectiveness.
- 🍏 Learn about and choose the focus of your parent involvement activity.
- 🍏 Receive feedback about your project from your academy colleagues.

In Phase B, you will:

- 🍏 Attend Training Sessions 3 and 4
- 🍏 Gather support from parents in your school community.
- 🍏 Get assistance, guidance and support for your project from Alabama PIRC staff.
- 🍏 Maintain contact with the Alabama PIRC staff for progress reports on your goals.
- 🍏 Implement your plan.
- 🍏 Explore elements of effective relationships with principals, teachers and parents.

In Phase C, you will:

- 🍏 Attend Training Session 5.
- 🍏 Evaluate your growth.
- 🍏 Share the results of your project with your colleagues.
- 🍏 Graduate and celebrate!

What are the Session dates?

Participants are required to attend all sessions. Sessions will start at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. The dates are:

Orientation: September 18, 2007
Training Sessions: TBA

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Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement
Application Form, Page 1

Application deadline: August 14, 2007

Notification of acceptance: August 31, 2007

Please Print

Applicants Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

County _____

Zip _____

Daytime Phone () _____

Evening Phone () _____

Email Address _____

Emergency Contact and Telephone Number _____

Please list any volunteer experience

PTA/PTO:

Office: _____

Years Active: _____

School Board:

Title: _____

School/District: _____

School Committees: (Please List) _____

Community Committees: (Please List) _____

Other Volunteer Activities (Such as Church or Scouts): _____

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Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement

Application Form, Page 2

Current Employment:

Employer: _____

Address: _____

Name of Supervisor: _____

Children

Name and age: _____

School they attend: _____

Name and age: _____

School they attend: _____

Name and age: _____

School they attend: _____

Name and age: _____

School they attend: _____

Our funder requires that we report on the diversity of the APLE participants. Please answer the following optional questions to assist us with our report.

Race/Ethnic origin: _____

Native Language: _____

Gender (Circle one)

MALE

FEMALE

Please answer the following questions, you may attach additional pages if needed.

On a scale of one to ten (one being the least, ten being the highest) please rate the level of parent participation in your child's school. (1 = no participation, 10 = participation in all aspects). Circle one.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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**Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement
Application Form, Page 3**

List and explain 3 ways parent are currently involved in your school or community to improve student learning:

1.

2.

3.

Describe 3 concerns you have about your school or school district

1.

2.

3.

Please explain in your opinion, how a group of organized parents could address these concerns:

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Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement

Personal Commitment:

Participants in the 2007-2008 Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement pledge to attend all orientation and training sessions. Participants are required to design and implement one leadership project related to student learning in Alabama public schools. Participants will maintain contact with the Alabama PIRC at least once between each session. Participants are expected to assist with recruiting other parents for future Academies and share their experiences related to parent engagement with their community.

I understand the purpose of the Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement and, if accepted, agree to participate in the sessions and conduct one project in my school or community.

Signature

Date

To The Applicant:

Please send your application and reference to:

The Alabama Parent Education Center
Attention: Alabama PIRC
10520 US Highway 231
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Or fax to (334) 567-9938

Note:

Applications must be postmarked by **August 14, 2007** to be considered for review (and should include your referral form if returned to you by the person providing the reference). If the person providing the reference is sending the form directly to APEC, please remind them to have the referral form postmarked no later than **August 14, 2007**.

Every applicant for the 2007 Academy will receive a written notice in the mail of his or her selection by August 31, 2007.

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Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement
Referral Form, Page 1 of 2

ATTENTION ACADEMY APPLICANT:

Please fill in the information below and give this form to someone who can tell us more about you. Ask him/her to complete it, seal it in the included envelope, and return it to you or send it directly to the Alabama Parent Education Center. If the referral is returned to you, it must be included in your application package and postmarked no later than **August 14, 2007**. If the referral is sent directly to the Alabama Parent Education Center, it must be postmarked by **August 14, 2007**. It is your responsibility to ensure that the referral is returned on time.

Name of Applicant _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone () _____

Email Address: _____

TO THE PERSON PROVIDING THE REFERENCE:

You are being asked to provide a reference for a parent, teacher, or community representative who is applying to become a member of the Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement. The Academy was established by the Alabama PIRC, a project of the Alabama Parent Education Center, in order to improve parent involvement as a means for supporting student achievement.

Please be aware that, after completing this referral form and sealing it in the envelope provided, there are two choices for returning it. ***Please communicate to the applicant which option you have chosen.***

- 1) You may give it to the applicant to attach to their application package by **August 14th**; or
- 2) You may send it directly to the Alabama Parent Education Center by **August 14th 2007**

Alabama Parent Education Center
Attention: Alabama PIRC
10520 US Highway 231
Wetumpka, AL 36092

For more information call the Alabama PIRC at the Alabama Parent Education Center (334) 567-2252 or toll free in Alabama at www.alabamaparentcenter.com



Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership and Engagement

The following information should be provided by the person giving the Reference on behalf of the Academy Applicant.

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How has this applicant been involved in his or her own child/children's education at home, in school or in the community?

Explain why you think this applicant has leadership potential and why this person is a good candidate for the Alabama Academy for Parent Leadership.

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