

# PARENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CURRICULUM

## Level 1

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### **Team Building: Learning and Growing Together**

The goal of the Parent Leadership Academy is to develop “Parent Leaders” to become the best advocates possible for their children and their children’s education. As participants gain valuable knowledge about education and grow as leaders, supporting and guiding their community through hardships, decision making, and personal growth becomes vital. **Participants become Ambassadors for other parents.**

Orientation provides an opportunity for new parents interested in participating in the PLA to get up-to-date information, meet and talk to current PLA participants, hear presentations by PLA graduates, meet PLA staff and get answers to their questions.

### **Class 1: GaDOE: Learning Your Child’s School System**

Understanding parent involvement in your child’s school is the first step to your child’s success as a student. With this in mind it seems logical that all parents would be involved. However, that is not the case; actually not even 50% of today’s parents are “meaningfully” involved in their child’s education. Reasons have been heard and researched, and one particular reason keeps presenting itself time and time again.

Many parents do not know what it “looks like” to be meaningfully involved in their child’s education. During this class PLA participants do not only get a look at what meaningful parent involvement looks like, but they walk away with a clear understanding about their child’s school system from the state down to the local school. Participants begin to understand the “education” vocabulary, whose office is where, and who is responsible for what. In addition, participants have a general knowledge of the various committees, teams, partnerships, and programs, so they can make a sound decision about where they can best serve in the education of their child.

### **Class 2: Leadership Qualities/Learning Styles (Now Discover your Strengths) Part 1**

**Part 1:** This class begins with an activity that encourages participants to build relationships, while helping them understand the difficulties teachers experience when trying to provide every parent and student with individualized time and attention. Next, what are your top five strengths? Guess again! Participants are introduced to Marcus Buckingham’s book, “Now Discover Your Strengths” (book study) and instructed to pick what they believe to be their top five strengths using Buckingham’s list. Next, participants take Buckingham’s StrengthFinder Assessment, Were you right? What about your learning style? Are you a Visual, Tactile, or Auditory Learner? What are your child’s/children’s learning style? PLA participants take a “Learning Style Inventory” to determine how they learn best

### **Class 3: Leadership Qualities/Learning Styles (Now Discover your Strengths) Part 2**

**Part 2:** What is a strength? During part 2 participants discuss assigned chapters and then work in groups sharing thoughts regarding strengths and weaknesses. In addition, participants hold mock interviews in order to practice the art of listening and capturing insights about the candidate’s natural talents and source of motivation.

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### **Class 4: Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) formally known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB)**

How much do you know about ESEA? Did you know that ESEA and NCLB go hand-in-hand? This class is packed full of information every parent “must” know about the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the reaffirmation of NCLB, or should I say, ESEA. PLA members are guided through a general overview of the Elementary Secondary Education Act from the Federal, State, and Local perspective.

### **Class 5: Title I - Overview**

What is Title I? During this class PLA participants will hear the history of Title I, learn about the programs purpose, eligibility requirements, programs offered, complaint procedures, and parent rights. Basically, the who, what, when, and why’s of Title I.

### **Class 6: FT: Barnes & Noble**

This class meets at Barnes & Noble where parents have an opportunity to get the inside scoop on the book store and what they have to offer. Parents are surprised to find out what neat and exciting programs and projects Barnes & Noble offers. Participants take a guided tour around the store and are encouraged to bring their family members and friends to visit the store.

### **Banquet & Certificate (Reflect, Discuss, and Evaluate)**

The final class allows PLA participants (Lv 1, 2, 3, & graduates) to share in focus group discussions. Topics include: information learned, what had the greatest impact and what had no impact. Participants share the benefits of the academy, as well as the challenges. In addition, the participants are encouraged to discuss any ideas and/or changes they would like to see added, and/or removed from the curriculum.

*\*Level 1, 2, and 3 evaluations are completed*