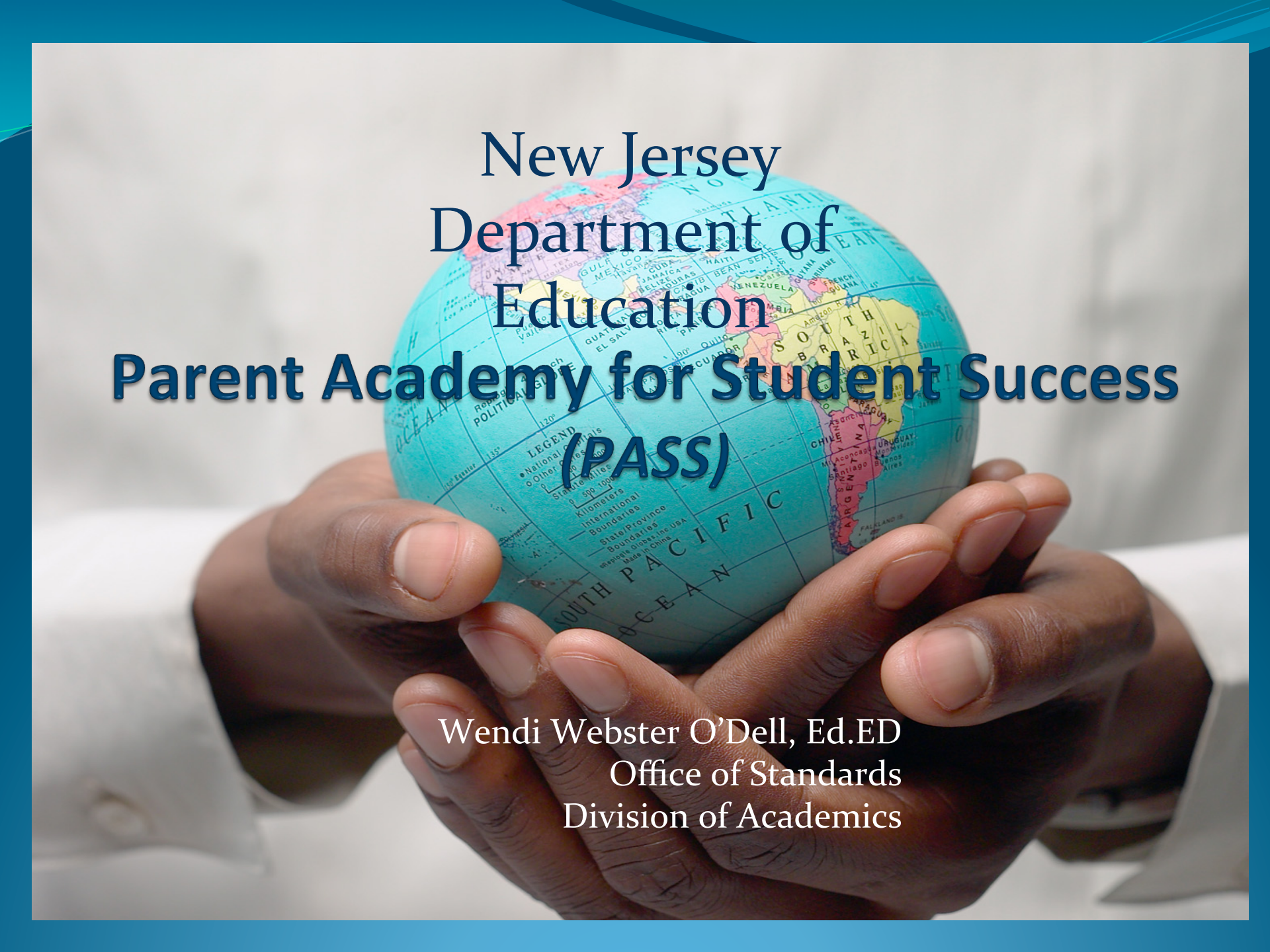


New Jersey Department of Education

Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)

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Children do not grow up, nor do they learn in isolation. Children are raised, educated and influenced by all of the caring adults in their lives. They are … the children that we share.

- Throughout this presentation, related materials, and conversations about the Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS), the term "parent" is applied broadly to include the adults who play a significant role of responsibility in a child's life. It must be recognized that other adults such as grandparents, relatives, step parents, adult siblings, guardians, foster parents, and others may carry the primary responsibility for a child's development and well-being. The PASS model is offered to educators and the adults who serve in the parenting role.

What is a Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)?

- The New Jersey Department of Education's model of a **Parent Academy for Student Success** (PASS) is singularly focused on student achievement. The model supports a school's traditional methods of engaging parents in the education of their children, yet it is focused on the development of meaningful home/school partnerships for the benefit of increased student learning.

Commitments

- Superintendent
- Board of Education members
- Principal
- Teacher
- Parent
- Student

Let's Define It

Parent engagement in education is:

- *A shared responsibility* in which parents and educators are committed to partner in meaningful ways to actively support learning in-school and out-of-school.
- *Continuous support for learning across a child's life*, spanning from early childhood programs to preparation for college and career.
- *Carried out everywhere that children learn* – at home, in pre-kindergarten programs, in school classrooms, in after-school programs, in faith-based institutions, in community programs, recreational programs, and other activities.

"Inform parents *what* and *how* students are learning and you get *more* learning"!

- When parents understand student learning expectations, students achieve better grades; higher test scores; easier transitions to the next grade level; better attendance; higher graduation rates; and higher motivation and success rates in college and careers.
- In school, students take more responsibility for their own learning; show more curiosity and innovation; are more organized and self-disciplined; consistently complete their homework; have higher class participation rates; and have less suspensions for disciplinary reasons.
- In addition, children from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to do better when parents and professionals work together to bridge the gap between the culture at home and the culture in school.

PASS Mission:

- The mission of the Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS) model is to enhance student achievement through effective home/school academic partnerships.

PASS Justification

Implementation of the suggested academy model:

- Provides districts and schools with a framework for supporting home and school partnerships and important 2-way conversations focused solely on student learning and performance;
- Strengthens the communication, partnerships, and conversations surrounding new expectations for teaching and learning;
- Encourages educators to utilize out of school learning as a strategy to support classroom success;
- Serves as a model for important topics that will promote the benefits of strong home school partnerships focused on teaching and learning.

PASS Goals

Increase student learning and achievement

- Districts and schools will create a bold and proactive approach to focus home/ school partnerships solely on teaching and learning.
- Districts and schools will use the suggested PASS model to design and implement a unique, progressive series of opportunities for parents to become informed and engaged in supporting their child's academic achievement.
- Districts and schools will provide clarification of learning expectations and facilitate a meaningful exchange where parents and educators share ideas, information, and activities that fully support student learning in, and out of, school.
- Educators will commit to improving student achievement by collaborating with parents.
- Educators will provide transparent information regarding the knowledge and skills that students demonstrate in class.
- Educators will value parents as primary partners in their child's education and will inform them of learning strategies methods that support student learning in school.

PASS Goals

Increase student learning and achievement

- Parents will seek opportunities to gain information and understanding of new teaching and learning techniques to support their child's learning in, and outside of, school.
- Parents will become active partners in the academic education and success of their children.
- Parents and teachers will engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication to discuss student learning expectations and achievement.
- Educators and parents will commit to regular conversations surrounding the expectations of teaching and learning.
- Schools will work together to validate that when parents are involved in their child's academic education, students experience higher achievement, increased graduation rates, and successful transitions to college or adult life.

Evidence

- For more than a half-century research has consistently shown that home/school learning partnerships are one of the strongest predictors of children's school success.
- Convincing benefits for student achievement

Emerging Evidence

- Compelling research from the Harvard Family Research Center has recently surfaced with early indications that strong home/school learning partnerships help to close educational gaps between children from different racial groups and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Ask any Educator: Do ya' wanna'…

- Increase awareness of the benefits of building successful family-school partnerships in education?
- Increase effective stakeholder capacity to strengthen student achievement through the articulation of those partnerships?
- Promote innovative methods and means that utilize such partnerships to improve schools and impact student success?

Well, what do you know?!?

Early Childhood

- Children whose parents read to them at home recognize letters of the alphabet and write their names sooner than those whose parents do not.
- Children whose parents teach them how to write words are able to identify letters and connect them to speech sounds.
- Children's early cognitive development is enhanced by parent supportiveness in play and a supportive cognitive and literacy-oriented environment at home. These advantages often continue into the school years.

Elementary

- Children in grades K–3 whose parents participate in school activities have good work habits and stay on task.
- Children whose parents provide support with homework perform better in the classroom.
- Children whose parents explain educational tasks are more likely to participate in class, seek help from the teacher when needed, and monitor their own work.

Middle and High School

- Adolescents whose parents monitor their academic and social activities have lower rates of delinquency and higher rates of social competence and academic growth.
- Youth whose parents are familiar with requirements for college and careers are engaged in the application process are most likely to graduate from high school and attend college or begin a successful career.
- Youth whose parents have high academic expectations and offer consistent encouragement have positive student outcomes in general.

What makes PASS different from other home/school activities?

- *A meaningful K-12 education and college/career preparation is less about students' memorization of facts and more about empowering students to think and apply that information to real-world challenges.*

What makes PASS different from other home/school activities?

The model allows parents and educators to …

- Make a distinction between academic content and other parent involvement activities;
- Encourage educators to utilize out-of-school learning as a strategy to support student's classroom success;
- Discuss the details of new teaching and learning practices;
- Utilize strategic timing to review student achievement;
- Customize tools to meet the needs of the school community;
- Provide an opportunity to share a common language and help students meet 21st century skills required for college and career.

Timelines

- Scheduling Parent Academies for Student Success (PASS) after the first, second, and third marking periods creates powerful opportunities for parents, teachers, and students to review student achievement and hold informed conversations about student learning.
- Remember, PASS activities are solely about student learning. Other issues and topics can always be added between events as needs arise. The PASS model can be applied to any topic at any grade level.

2014 – 2015 PASS Themes

- The three 2014-2015 recommended themes are aligned with learning milestones and implementation of new initiatives
  - Academy #1 Student Learning with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS),
  - Academy #2 Assessing Student Learning and PARCC, and
  - Academy #3 Out-of-School Learning that Supports Students in the Classroom.

Support Tools

- The PASS tool kit includes: planning guides, sample agendas, talking points, model templates, conversation starters, parent handouts, resources, supplements for classroom conversations with parents, and other tools to support facilitation of the model.

Planning

- Planning guides help educators and parents design a custom PASS to meet the needs of parents and students.

Sample Agenda for PASS #1 General Sessions

- Introduction to the topic
- Commitments from district and school administrators
- Comments about why General Session #1 is different from other activities
- Support materials for General Session #1
- Highlights of the topic
- Breakout session for detailed explanation and modeling of teaching and learning
- A “Conversation Cafe” Q & A for refreshments and answers to parent’s questions

Sample Agenda for Breakouts

- PASS theme as it applies to classroom learning
- General Session #1 Introduction to a Common Core classroom
- Samples of instructional change ("*That* is what we did before the CCSS and *this* is what we are doing with the CCSS") Parents will learn strategies to more effectively assist their child in learning mathematics and English language arts.
- Relevant handouts

Supports I - Handouts

Key Handouts from the Principal

- Introduction to PASS
- What Makes PASS Different from Other Activities
- Timelines, Targets and Supporting Materials
- Benefits of the PASS
- Overview of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- CCSS Myths and Facts
- How Students Learn with the CCSS
- CCSS Inspired Homework
- Q & A

Supports II - Handouts

Key handouts from teachers

- Introduction to the theme as it applies in the classroom
- A focus on subject and lesson material
- Samples of instructional changes
- Homework
- Relevant handouts

Three 20 Minute Breakouts

Topic: English language arts

Facilitator:

Location:

Topic: Mathematics

Facilitator:

Location:

Topic: Blended content across subject areas

Facilitator:

Location:

Welcome Back from the Breakout Sessions!

Some parents are already helping their children learn out-of-school:

- BATMAN'S MOTHER: "It's a nice car, Bruce. Can you calculate how much the insurance is going to be?“
- MARY'S MOTHER: "I'm not upset that your lamb followed you to school, Mary, but let’s talk with your teacher to find out how he got a better grade than you.“
- GOLDILOCKS' MOTHER: "I received a note from the Bear family. It outlines a bill for a broken chair. Can you read this and summarize what you read, Goldie?"

Conversation Cafe Q & A

- Refreshments
- Handouts
- Conversation starters
- Questions from parents

Resources

- Handouts
- School and teacher websites:
- NJDOE website:
- http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/
- NJDOE email: informCCSS@doe.state.nj.us

What's Next?

Topics

- Academy #2 Assessing Student Learning and PARCC
- Academy #3 Out-of-School Learning that Supports Students in the Classroom.

Dates

- .
- .

Location

- .
- .

Thank you!