New Jersey Department of Education

Educational Partnerships

Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS)

What Makes the Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS) Different From Other Parent and Family Involvement 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.

The Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS) model is different from other traditional parent/family involvement activities. The model allows parents and educators to …

- Make a distinction between PASS academic content and other parent involvement activities such as fundraising, attendance at student performances, volunteering, etc. (PASS events are solely about student achievement.);
- Develop a suggested, sustainable framework that strengthens the communication, partnerships, and conversations surrounding new expectations of teaching and learning;
- 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 and strengthen positive home/school relationships;
- Utilize strategic timing to review student achievement and hold informed conversations about the evidence of student learning and growth (The suggested PASS model recommends that academies occur after the first, second, and third marking periods.);
- Deepen the accountability for student learning among all stakeholders;
- Design integrated support from superintendent/ board of education/ school leaders/ teachers/ parent leaders;
- Select from a variety of flexible support tools to develop individual programs tailored to best meet the needs of respective education communities;
- Engage in conversations about what students are learning - how teachers and parents know when students are learning it – what to do if they don't/can't learn the content;
- Construct conversations that lead to mutually designed personalized learning targets and plans for students;
- Create a window into a Common Core classroom where parents can see modeling of instructional techniques;
- Review classroom examples of the shifts in ELA and mathematics teaching and learning;
- Share a new vision for student homework and out-of school support; and
- Discuss, define, and help students meet 21st century skills required for college and career.