



DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
The Family Literacy Center
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Parents Supporting Educational Excellence (ParentsSEE)

FACT SHEET

ParentsSEE is a 13 week leadership course for parents, grandparents and anyone interested in how schools function and who wants to improve schools. ParentsSEE provides motivated participants with practical strategies for actively engaging with parents, educators and community leaders in examining educational policies and practice. Learn what to expect from schools and how to partner with them.

The skills participants will learn are the most important for creating leadership, partnership, change and education policy. Parents learn how to facilitate discussions around policy issues; work in partnership with parents and school leaders; collaborate in developing and carrying out a course of action; communicate effectively on content, with a variety of constituencies. They also identify steps needed to improve upon or to change a policy or condition; use benchmarks and outcome measures of student learning, collect and use qualitative and quantitative data to form opinions and inform decisions, and feel comfortable going into schools for different purposes.

How does PARENTS SEE benefit parents, children, school and communities? Research studies show a clear linkage between student achievement and family involvement. When schools, families, and community groups work together, students do better in school and have a higher probability of success. Students whose parents are involved in their education are more likely to: have higher grades and test scores; attend school regularly, pass their classes and be promoted; have fewer discipline problems; and graduate and pursue higher education.

During the 13 week course, class members address essential questions such as: What do effective schools look like?; What is change?; How and why do schools change?; What is our educational system?; How does our school district function?; What is a citizens/parents role in how the school district functions?; Why do some students succeed in school while other do not?; What is a parent's role in children's learning and school improvement?; When are improvements in schools

warranted?; What are the key education policies?; How do parents lead in school?; and What do knowledge, skills and civic tool kit mean for effective parent leadership in education? The classes are a combination of discussion groups answering each night's question, a class with the Superintendent, a night spent at Board of Education meeting, and a world café dinner with community members.

PARENTS SEE recognizes that multiple generations raise children. The program is open to parents, grandparents and other adults raising children. PARENTS SEE supports its participants who are taking the classes by providing a light dinner and child care, all general materials and the resources for each session. There is no cost for the course and childcare is provided.

To register for the PARENTS SEE Program or for more information on the Program contact Lori at the Extended Learning Programs at 203-797-4733 or download a brochure from the Danbury Public School website at www.danbury.k12.ct.us. We look forward to having you attend the course!!