PASS

Parent Allies for Student Success

A new volunteer opportunity is open and available to members of the Northern Virginia community that would like to make a difference in parents’ lives by becoming a parent Ally.

Allies will be trained, at no cost, and then matched with parents in one-on-one partnerships. Allies will be able to assist parents in effectively advocating for their children in school. Ongoing support will be provided for Allies.

For more information on becoming an ALLY or to learn more about the PASS program
Please join us at the Reception & Orientation

WHEN: Friday, February 29, 2008
WHERE: Holiday Inn, Ballston (Free parking available)
        4601 Fairfax Drive
        Arlington, VA
        4:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.
        (You may attend either session)

For additional information please contact
Tony Camp or Dr. Talmadge Williams @ (703) 979-3200 or
by email at ttwrec@aol.com

This is a partnership collaboration of NAACP Arlington Branch, George Mason University (Graduate School of Education) and PEATC (Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center)

Funded in part by the Virginia Parent Information Resource Center (PEATC) through US Department of Education, grant award#U310A060245 & AT&T Community Outreach
Parent Allies for Student Success

What is PASS?

Parent Allies for Student Success (PASS) is a non-profit organization founded in response to the need for parents to have access to support systems and information to better navigate the school system. PASS resulted from the collaboration of:

**NAACP**, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Arlington Branch;

**GMU**, George Mason University, College of Education and Human Development; and

**PEATC**, Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center.

The organizations represented in this project bring with them expertise and a strong history of community collaboration and partnership.

What is the concern?

It has been proven that parent involvement positively impacts children’s performance in school. Many parents, however, are isolated by demographics and logistical barriers. In addition, access to information is not equally and evenly distributed across all cultural and economic groups. Based on negative past experiences, many families lack trust in today’s education system. Others don’t understand the importance of their ongoing participation and involvement in school related activities.

How can PASS help?

The PASS project believes that a support system of allies will help parents enhance their ability to participate in the education of their children. An ally will be responsible for one family, one or more years, and establish a level of comfort and open communication. Allies and parents will be matched to foster a working relationship. With the parent, allies will develop goals, action plans, and meeting schedules. Together, they can work within the educational system to help assure the student’s success in school.
Who are our Allies?

Allies are knowledgeable members of the community with the time and willingness to serve.

Allies learn about:

- resources, community agencies, and schools;
- how schools work;
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB);
- how to identify parent and child strengths; and
- effective problem solving.

How will Allies be trained?

Allies will be trained, at no cost, by local educators and professors from George Mason University. The trainers are experts in the field of parent and child development, and committed to increasing educational opportunities for all students.

The training curriculum will help develop the skills and knowledge necessary to work with parents. Allies will help parents:

- find out about available options and opportunities;
- make informed decisions;
- communicate effectively with school personnel;
- learn and use technology applied to their children’s education; and
- advocate for a successful future for their children.

Ongoing support will be provided to both parent allies and parents.

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