



Selecting Leadership Team Parent Representatives

Selecting parents for membership on your school or district leadership team is an important decision. You will want to make sure that the parents chosen are a good representation of your school's/district's families.

Please use this handout in conjunction with the Selecting Leadership Team Parent Representatives Worksheet.

Characteristics of a Leadership Team Parent Representative

- Has a child or children currently attending the school or district and is not a staff member or spouse of a staff member.
- Has time and energy to make commitment
- Interest and willingness to work as an equal participant on the decision making team.
- Willingness to work collaboratively between families and schools
- Understands the need and have the ability to maintain confidentiality
- Asks questions, shares information, gives their perspective and willing to consider other team member's perspectives
- Recognizes that the initiative benefits All Students

Roles & Responsibilities – What will the Parent Representative do?

Required

- Attend team meetings
- Communicate and work with the school/district Leadership team.
- Share in the mission of improvement and support it by promoting the school/district's efforts.
- Provide a parent's perspective
- Actively contribute to the discussion and be prepared for meetings
- Attend workshops and trainings
 - Beginning School Implementation OR Framework Appraisal (required)
 - Resource Mapping (if team decides to attend)
 - Fundamentals of Family Involvement (strongly recommended)
 - Family Involvement Workshops (recommended)
 - Role of the Parent on the Leadership Team
 - REACH Showcase Event (with the leadership team)
 - Statewide Parent Leadership Conference (recommended)
 - Trainings provided by WI FACETS, WSPEI, PTA, Parents Plus, etc. (optional)
 - Other trainings
- Communicate with families

Roles and Responsibilities (continued)

Other Activities and Roles could include

- Assist with writing articles for schools or create a district newsletter to help communicate what school improvement efforts and activities are in process
 - Help other parents understand about the process for intervention and what to expect
 - Provide regular update to PTA/PTO or other parent groups on Leadership Team activities
 - Develop and conduct surveys of parents with team when requested by schools
 - Assist with planning of family friendly activities, events, or meetings in the school or district
 - Encourage the participation of other parents on district and school teams and committee
 - Other _____
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Expectations – What can the Parent Representative expect?

- Background information on REACH
- Open communication
- Mentoring and/or support from another team member
- Stipend for time and/or child care
- Explanation of educational jargon and terminology
- Encouragement to attend trainings and workshops
- Expenses covered for attendance at trainings and workshops
- Included in team's work and planning activities
- Answers to questions in understandable terms
- Other

Supports and Networking Opportunities within the REACH Initiative and Beyond

- Trainings/workshops offered through the REACH Centers
- Trainings/workshops offered through WI FACETS
- Trainings/workshops offered through WSPEI
- Networking regionally with other REACH Parent Representatives and with parents/families in other initiatives and organizations

Parent and Family Resources:

- REACH FIT (Family Involvement Team) - www.reachwi.org; click on Family Involvement tab
- WI FACETS – Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support, Inc. www.wifacets.org
- WSPEI – Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/parent.htm>;
- WI PTA – Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association www.wisconsinpta.org
- Parent Plus – Milwaukee www.parentspluswi.org
- WI DPI Community Learning and Partnerships Team www.dpi.wi.gov/fscp/index.html
- Wisconsin Family Ties www.wifamilyties.org
- Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council www.glitc.org
- REACH Website: www.reachwi.org
- REACH Regional Centers: www.reachwi.org; click on Regional Centers tab