

Montgomery County Public Schools
Rockville, Maryland

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

2009–2010



Office of Communications and Family Outreach

Department of Family and Community Partnerships

Office of Communications and Family Outreach

Montgomery County Public Schools Parent Advisory Council

Introduction

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) provides input on ways to improve communication and parent engagement at the district and local school level and also provides parent advocacy trainings to support student learning. PAC members are parents who have at least one child in the school system and who reflect the diversity of the MCPS community. PAC meetings are facilitated by staff in the MCPS Office of Communications and Family Outreach.

Mission

The mission of the Parent Advisory Council is to provide feedback and advice to the school system on parent involvement efforts related to the research-based national PTA standards for family-school partnerships described in Board of Education Policy ABC, *Parental Involvement*. These six standards are 1) Welcoming All Families into the School Community, 2) Communicating Effectively, 3) Supporting Student Success, 4) Speaking Up for Every Child, 5) Sharing Power, and 6) Collaborating with the Community. The PAC is proactive and innovative in identifying and sharing ways to enhance the school system's communication and parent engagement efforts and parent advocacy training.

Responsibilities of the PAC include the following:

- Working collaboratively as part of the Parent Academy to develop and conduct parent trainings that focus on parent advocacy skills and partnering with the school to help children succeed.
- Communicating with and getting feedback from other parents in the community.
- Examining various multimedia products and services developed by the school system to communicate with parents, and providing feedback on quality and clarity.
- Providing advice on innovative ways to communicate with parents about systemwide initiatives, programs, and activities.
- Providing feedback as requested to the Board of Education and MCPS offices and work groups on specific programs, activities, resources, and materials.

What is the structure of the PAC?

The PAC is composed of 30 parents who serve two-year terms. For the purposes of this Council, the term "parent" refers to the parent or legal guardian of a child enrolled in a Montgomery County public school. Of the 30 seats on the PAC, one seat will be reserved for a representative of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and one for a representative of the NAACP Parents' Council. Fifteen PAC members will complete their second terms during the 2009–2010 school year. Therefore, 15 new members will be selected in fall 2009. The Parent Advisory Council will select co-chairs at the first meeting on October 5, 2009.

What is the process for parents who are interested in serving on the PAC?

Nominations are welcome from parents, staff, community organizations, and other members of the MCPS community. Self-nominations will be accepted. The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2009–2010 PAC will be September 15, 2009. Nomination forms will be available in local schools and on the website of the Department of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP)—a unit of the MCPS Office of Communications and Family Outreach—at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familycommunity/ or by calling DFPC at 301-279-3100.

How are members chosen to serve on the PAC?

To ensure broad representation, the nominations of potential members will be evaluated on a variety of factors, including geographic location of residence, child's grade level, and areas of interest and experience related to MCPS programs and services including, but not limited to, special education, gifted and talented, and ESOL. The membership of the PAC will reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the student population.

When will the PAC meetings be held?

PAC will meet six times during the 2009–2010 school year. The meetings will be held at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. Interpretation services will be provided as needed.

The meetings will last approximately 90 minutes, beginning at 6:30 p.m., on the following dates:

- Monday, October 5, 2009
- Wednesday, November 18, 2009
- Monday, January 11, 2010
- Wednesday, February 24, 2010
- Monday, April 12, 2010
- Wednesday, May 12, 2010

What will be expected of PAC members?

Each member will serve a two-year term. Members may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. PAC representatives will agree to have personal contact information posted on the DFPC website to allow area stakeholders to communicate and provide input. Council members will be expected to attend all scheduled meetings; prepare for each meeting as needed; work in a collaborative fashion with each other and with school system staff; express views and opinions openly, constructively, and respectfully; and help facilitate parent advocacy trainings. Although staff will develop an agenda for each meeting, Council representatives may submit discussion items for consideration.

What will be expected of Office of Communications and Family Outreach staff?

Staff will develop an agenda for each meeting and send agenda materials to Council members sufficiently in advance of each meeting. A staff member will take minutes at all PAC meetings and disseminate them as appropriate. Staff will provide materials for review as needed.

**NOMINATION FORM
2009–2010**

Please complete one form per nominee. The nomination form must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2009, to Eric Davis, director, Department of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP), Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 50, Rockville, Maryland 20850; [Eric A Davis@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Eric_A_Davis@mcpsmd.org); fax 301-279-3815. Nominees must be the parent or legal guardian of at least one child enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools. Appointees will be notified by September 25, 2009. For more information, call DFPC at 301-279-3100. This form also can be accessed at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/familycommunity/.

**Montgomery County Public Schools
Parent Advisory Council**

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

How do you know the nominee? _____

Does the nominee know that you are submitting his/her name? _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Nominee is a parent of child(ren) in the following school(s):

Is foreign language or sign language interpretation needed? If yes, which language _____

Explain why you believe the nominee would be a valuable member of the MCPS Parent Advisory Council. Include information about the nominee's interests and experiences related to MCPS programs and services, including but not limited to special education, gifted and talented, and ESOL. (Attach additional sheet.)