

Imagine a school where racial and ethnic differences are not barriers to success.

The *Study Circles Program* provides MCPS schools and offices a tool to engage diverse staff, parents, and students in dialogue and problem solving.

The program helps participants to develop the relationships, awareness, and strategies needed to address racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement and parent involvement.

Program staff provide:

- *Support to recruit participants
- *Trained facilitators
- *Interpreters
- *Help with action plans

The *Study Circles Program* has different formats to meet the needs of the school or office.

**Call Department of Family and Community Partnerships
(301) 279-3455**

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studycircles/

Formats

The Study Circles Program is a dialogue and action program that addresses racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement and parent involvement.

Trained facilitators help participants to build trusting relationships, learn about each other's cultures, have honest conversations about race, find common ground, and develop action steps to help all students succeed. Study Circles are offered in different formats to meet the needs of the school or office.

Parents and teachers (and students when appropriate)

6 weeks, once a week

Objectives:

- * To build a unified group of diverse parents, teachers, and students that understands the challenges and benefits of a diverse school.
- * To create personal and group action steps that address racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement.
- * To encourage an environment in which racial and ethnic issues are talked about openly and productively.

Spanish language

Parents and Staff

Facilitated in Spanish, translated to English for school staff

6 weeks, once a week

Objectives:

- * To create a partnership among Latino parents and school staff to improve student achievement and parent involvement for Latino students and families.

Students

2 or 3 half days

Objectives:

- * To understand the students' experiences and perceptions on race, and how race impacts their education.

School or Central Services Staff

Retreats or weekly sessions

Objectives:

- * To create a team that has the trust and skills to address institutional barriers to success.
- * To provide an opportunity for staff at all levels to voice their concerns and experiences.
- * To develop action steps based on common ground.

Students and Staff

2 or 3 half days

Objectives:

- * To provide an opportunity for students and staff to discuss racial barriers in a productive dialogue.