IDRA Parent Leadership in Education Model

IDRA’s goal is bigger than parent involvement in education, rather it is parent leadership. This model is a vision of all parents as advocates of excellent neighborhood public schools. We consider leadership the culminating set of activities in a spectrum of parent participation. The characteristics we support in the development of leadership are in contrast to some traditional parent leadership models that emphasize individual assertiveness and charismatic advocacy. Our process supports parents in learning to work in groups, planning and carrying out activities, speaking in front of groups, and developing other personal skills and traits that develop the individual. But, our emphasis is on collective action, listening to peers, and revolving tasks and leadership roles.

**Parents as Decision Makers**

Facilitating opportunities for parents to participate in groups, making decisions for the improvement and well-being of the school. Parents are supported in learning, planning, assessing options and arriving at collective solutions.

**Parents as Teachers**

Acknowledging families for what they have already contributed to the education of their children. Parents are validated for the informal ways they instruct their children in the home and pass on family values and wisdom.

**Parents as Resources**

Recognizing that the prime asset that parents bring to school is the knowledge and understanding of the child. Parents and primary caretakers are the experts on their children. Families are supported to contribute in the classroom in a variety of ways, including assisting with instructional support.

**Parents as Leaders and Trainers**

Supporting leaders as they begin to emerge. A leader is one who brings two or more others to a school conversation, meeting or event is a leader. Leadership is reflected in disseminating information, gathering others on school issues and participating in collective action to improve the school.


See our 6 Principles for Family Leadership in Education [https://idra.news/6PrinciplesFamLeadership](https://idra.news/6PrinciplesFamLeadership)

The Intercultural Development Research Association is an independent, non-profit organization. Our mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college.

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