
SCHOOL SITE VISITS

Los Angeles Unified School District Local District F Los Angeles, California

In an effort to continually strengthen the district's school, family, community partnership programs, representatives from Parents as Learning Partners in the three school families in Los Angeles County conducted school site visits during the 1999-2000 school year. The 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. school site visits included focus groups of teachers, parents, students, Action Team members, Action Team chairs, the principal, support staff, and parent center staff. After the focus groups, the representatives reported findings to the Action Team, and followed up the discussion with a written report.

Through information gathered during the site visits, the representatives from Parents as Learning Partners determined trends among schools and training needs for the upcoming year. The core findings of the site visits included:

- Action Teams need more training. Previously, 3-4 members of a team had received training. The site visits emphasized the need to include community members as part of the team. Now, each school will bring two teachers, two parents, an administrator, and a community representative to training sessions.
- Action Team training should focus on developing school-site action plans that also include funding columns to determine the matching contributions from other sources.
- More teacher training on partnerships should be offered. Topics should include home- school communication, home visits, student-led conferences, interactive homework, parent engagement at the secondary level, and organizing parent workshops.
- Partnership training should be tailored to include the special issues of administrators and Title I/bilingual coordinators.

The time spent at each school site yielded important information to guide leadership development on school, family, and community partnerships in Los Angeles County.

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