

Leadership Development

## Families & Communities Guide

We empower parents to advocate for their children's education and help facilitate change in their school communities. Our Leadership Development programs for families and communities include Parent College and United Parents for Educational Justice (UPEJ).



### PARENT COLLEGE

Parent College is our signature, network-wide education and training program open to every Partnership family, as well as all LA Unified families with children in non-Partnership schools.

Parent College develops parent leaders and provides them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to promote their student's success in school and prepare them to complete college. The program focuses on building parent power as they acquire strategies to help students succeed. For parents who seek to better understand the school system and ways they can work collectively to impact change at the school and district levels, we offer an advanced track of workshops focused on Advocacy & Leadership.

**UNITED PARENTS FOR  
EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE  
(UPEJ)**

Consistent with our mission, the Partnership believes that parents can play an essential role in advocating for policy changes that create fair opportunities for students and make amends for historical disinvestment in poor and working class communities of color. That is why we support United Parents for Educational Justice (UPEJ), a parent-led Partnership group that develops parent leadership and organizes for sustainable, long-term solutions to systemic injustice impacting our students.

Formed as a parent-led initiative that grew out of the Parent College Advocacy & Leadership track, UPEJ is focused on issues within the context of broader community and school systems that affect the education of students. After learning about the workings of the school system and the basics of advocacy, our families began to develop a more nuanced understanding of the school system and a sense of their own agency to partner with schools and other families to create change. The outcome of their efforts is a cadre of families who are skilled in organizing and able to lead and mobilize a broader group of families and stakeholders to advocate for more equitable policies.

While UPEJ and the Partnership engage in reciprocal communication and influence on policy priorities, the Partnership's role in this work is to support, facilitate, and enable UPEJ parents to become leaders and activators for change in their communities.