

A Model for Creating Meaningful and Diverse Parent Involvement at Your School

School Smarts is an award-winning, research-based program that is proven to:

- Foster parent engagement in schools
- Support parents as their children's first teachers
- Develop future parent leaders
- Encourage parents to advocate for a complete education that includes the arts



**Want to bring
School Smarts
to your school?**

We're ready to help.

Contact us at

(916) 440-1985

capta.org/schoolsmarts

School Smarts Makes a Positive Impact

Proven program results for parents include:

- Improved understanding among parents from all backgrounds of the K-12 school system
- Increased knowledge by parents of how to support their child's learning at home
- Greater parent confidence in effectively communicating with other parents and school staff to build a positive school community
- Expanded number of diverse parents participating in school-wide decision-making and leadership roles, including through PTAs, School Site Councils, English Learner Advisory Committees and LCAP committees.

What Parents Learn

Session 1: Parent involvement

Parents' role as their child's first teacher and the types of parent involvement

Session 2: Preparing for a lifetime of learning

How children learn and the basics of college readiness

Session 3: Understanding our education system

The structure of California's public school system, including academic standards, testing and local school funding

Session 4: Understanding our school

How schools are governed and decisions are made

Session 5: Becoming an effective communicator

The importance of communication between families, schools and other audiences

Session 6: Standing up for quality education

Becoming a leader and advocate on behalf of your child and all children

Session 7: Taking action/Celebrating commitment

Creating personal and group action plans

The School Smarts Model

School Smarts is an inclusive parent engagement program that brings parents together in support of their common interest: Helping their children and schools succeed.

Launched as a pilot program in 2010 with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, School Smarts now operates in schools and school districts across the state.

The Program Includes:

A campus-wide engagement night

A school-wide event is designed to attract parents from all sectors of the school community to enjoy a social and educational evening and learn more about the School Smarts program. Each event is planned and customized by a local site Steering Committee with the goal of informing parents about their own school and how to maximize success for their children, plus get a chance to meet each other and school leaders, and take part in an interactive arts activity with their children that introduces them to the power of arts learning and further builds community.

Parent Academy

Trained facilitators lead seven interactive sessions that are two hours in length. Class size typically ranges from 25-30 parent participants. The course includes a professionally-developed curriculum, multimedia presentations, individual and group activities, art instructional activities, homework assignments, and discussions. Childcare and refreshments are provided.

Celebrating leadership and next-level engagement

The Parent Academy culminates with a graduation celebration – many parent graduates then go on to serve on school and district committees, PTA boards and in other ways; plus seek additional training to strengthen their overall engagement and their advocacy skills.

School Smarts materials are currently available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.



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