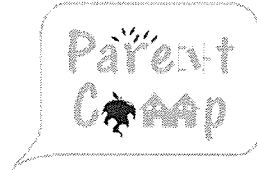


## **ParentCamp: How to Start a ParentCamp**

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## How to Start a ParentCamp

### Explore

- ✓ Reach out to school and district leadership, parent groups, community & educational organizations to form a committee and gather support

### Plan Your Event

- ✓ Choose a date, time and location. The typical ParentCamp takes place in a school and lasts 4 hours with 3 breakout sessions.
- ✓ Create a registration (ParentCamps are always FREE) and session suggestion sign-up form
- ✓ Spread the word via hard copy, social media, traditional media, community & faith organizations (translate into various languages as necessary)
- ✓ Recruit facilitators and language interpreters, as needed

### Check the Details

- ✓ Recruit volunteers to be greeters, assist with food, and for room monitors
- ✓ Create directional and sponsorship signage
- ✓ Work with building contact person:
  - Verify the rooms will meet technology needs (if there are any)
  - Verify wi-fi capacity in building; request guest login if necessary

### The Big Day!

- ✓ Display a Twitter feed wall & encourage attendees to post and tweet using the #ParentCamp hashtag
- ✓ Network and have fun!

### Follow-Up

- ✓ Share individual and share-out session notes with attendees
- ✓ Survey attendees afterward for feedback and suggested improvements
- ✓ Continue the conversation online with ParentCamp participants and start planning the next event!

**ParentCamp = Parents CAN!**

**[www.parentcamp.org](http://www.parentcamp.org) @ParentCamp #ParentCamp**

**For support and guidance, contact ParentCamp Inc. ([julie@parentcamp.org](mailto:julie@parentcamp.org))**

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**Family, School and Community Engagement**

1 message

**U.S. Department of Education** <ed.gov@public.govdelivery.com>

Reply-To: ed.gov@public.govdelivery.com

To: yhan@msde.state.md.us

Fri, Jul 31, 2015 at 6:10 PM

Volume VIII, Issue 7

**FAMILY, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

August 2015

**FEATURES****Educators Gather at the White House to Rethink School Discipline***U.S. Department of Education Announced New Tools to Help Schools Rethink Discipline*

On July 23, the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice hosted teams of superintendents, principals, and teachers from across the country for "Rethink Discipline," a day-long White House conference on creating positive school climates and implementing effective discipline practices. The conference sought to advance the national conversation about reducing the overuse of unnecessary out of school suspensions and expulsions and replacing these practices with positive alternatives that keep students in school and engaged in learning.

According to data from the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), the number of students losing critical learning time due to out of school suspensions and expulsions is

**ParentCamp**

The U. S. Department of Education plans to host its first ParentCamp in October 2015.

ParentCamp has topics created by parents for parents. Parents are encouraged to have discussions and hands-on sessions.

ParentCamp is built on the principles of connecting and participating while learning. ParentCamp strives to bring parents together to talk about the things that matter most to them. Educators are welcomed to come as well. More details about the ParentCamp will follow in the months ahead. Please go to the website <http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement> for more information.

**EFFECTIVE PRACTICES****21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)**

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education provides nation-wide family engagement support to State Education Agencies (SEAs) and their 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) through the implementation of the Family Engagement Resource Providers

ParentCamp is a free “un-conference” that brings parents, caregivers, community leaders, educators, and children together to have conversations about how best to support students. It is an opportunity for those within the school communities – parents, teachers, students and community and faith-based representatives- to expand relationships, strengthen partnerships, share, network, and learn.

The event is particularly timely in light of the recent authorization of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, which contains several laudable family engagement provisions. The law provides authorization for statewide organizations to establish family engagement centers to carry out parent education and family engagement programs; and to provide comprehensive training and technical assistance to state educational agencies, local educational agencies, and organizations that support family-school partnerships. As a result of *ESSA*, organizations now will be able to apply for grant funds to establish statewide family engagement centers, which will assist parents in participating effectively in their children’s education and in helping their children meet challenging state academic standards. Elements of the law will encourage families to engage in activities that will improve student academic achievement and support learning in the classroom with activities at home and in after-school and extracurricular programs. In addition, a Dear Colleague letter and early learning resources for immigrant families will be shared.

At ParentCamp, attendees who come from diverse backgrounds and neighborhoods, and who serve in a variety of roles in their educational communities, lead in-depth, face-to-face discussions about what is best for students. The events rely on the expertise and perspectives of the entire room, not just those of a main presenter, which distinguishes the event from a traditional conference. Discussion leaders begin the conversation and offer initial resources, but those in the room (and those following on social media) add the depth and much-needed creativity that will help to improve outcomes for our nation’s children. Every participant puts his or her unique strategies and ideas that could benefit student learning, teaching, and parenting on the table.

In the eyes of the participating parents, parent advocates, and community and faith-based representatives, the Department had set the right example by hosting stakeholders here at the epicenter of education. Attendees felt that hosting a ParentCamp at ED showed how critical it is to make parents feel welcome to participate directly in their child’s education, rather than treating the home and the school as separate entities.

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families  
(February 24, 2017, 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

There is a sizable social-media component to the day, with the event's Twitter feed scrolling on screens in the LBJ auditorium.

ParentCamp is one way ED's examines the systemic and sustained ways for parents and caregivers to communicate, collaborate, and actively participate in educating the whole child.

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families  
(February 24, 2017, 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

## Outline for the day

### I Open

- Greet and Welcome
- Explain purpose
- Explain process
- Choose topics

### II Sessions (no more than 40 minutes)

- 9:00 – 9:40
- 9: 50 – 10:30
- 10:35 – 11:15

### III SMACK DOWN/Shout Out

- Leave with a purpose

## Agenda

Welcome

Remarks

- Explain parentcamp
- People write in topics

Sessions (40 minutes)

I

II

III

SMACKDOWN

Have people make name tags as they enter location of event - only first name