

FY 2009 QUESTION NUMBER: 4

QUESTION:

What training is proposed for parent community coordinators? Does this training provide standardization and flexibility allowing adaptation to the needs of individual schools?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE:

ANSWER:

The professional development that is currently provided to existing parent community coordinators in the Division of Family and Community Partnerships (DFCP) and will be provided to new parent community coordinators added for FY 2009 includes:

Weekly three-hour sessions on research-based best practices on parent and community involvement, school system initiatives, Board of Education policies, the instructional program, community resources, and workshop development and delivery. Leadership staff from DFCP and various MCPS offices conduct training.

Monthly three-hour cross-department training sessions for DFCP and Division of ESOL/Bilingual Programs parent outreach staff on school system programs and activities, effective parent outreach strategies, and community resources. Staff from various MCPS offices conducts training.

Periodic training on special education law, policies and programs provided by staff in the departments of Special Education Services and Operations.

Annual two-day special education training provided by the Maryland State Department of Education as part of the Partners for Success program. This annual training offers staff the opportunity to learn new strategies that support parents of students receiving special education services.

Periodic training identified by the director of the Department of Communications and DFCP leadership that is conducted by outside experts, as well as by other MCPS offices and divisions.

In addition, to the staff development described above, the new parent community coordinators will participate in orientation sessions when they are hired in FY 2009. Flexibility is always built into training to enable staff to meet the needs of individual schools. When particular trends or challenges are identified at an individual school, training and support are provided to ensure that parent community coordinators are prepared to address them effectively. The current parent community coordinators also will provide ongoing mentoring to the new parent community coordinators.