

Polk County Schools Title I-Regional Parent Informational Resource Centers and Parent University

Goal of the Parent Centers

Our goal is to educate, equip, and partner with our students and their support systems by offering a wide variety of relevant and effective programs and resources that will make a positive impact on the individual and the community. By building strong parent-learning communities we will increase student achievement in our schools.

For the 2014-2015 school year there will be four regional Parent Resource Centers.

North Lakeland Area	@	Sleepy Hill Elementary
Winter Haven Area	@	Garner Elementary
Frostproof Area	@	Frostproof Elementary
Central Lakeland Area	@	Combee Elementary

Who can come to the Center?

All parents of students who attend a Title I school may come to the Center. Parents are welcome to visit and take part in the workshops and to check out materials to help their child at home with academic skills.

What will the Centers offer?

- Workshops and classes will be offered to parents as part of our Parent University.
- The centers will house a variety of information and resources for parents from local businesses and community organizations within Polk County.
- There will be materials for grades PreK-12th for parents to check out in the content area of reading, writing, math, and science.
- The centers will house a professional library of parent resource books.
- Each center will have two computers for parent use.
- All materials will be available in English and most in Spanish. Haitian Creole will be offered if available.
- All materials will be linked to our curriculum in Polk County and based on the Florida Standards.

When will the Centers be open?

The OPERATIONAL HOURS for the parent centers will be flexible times and days to offer many opportunities for parents to visit.

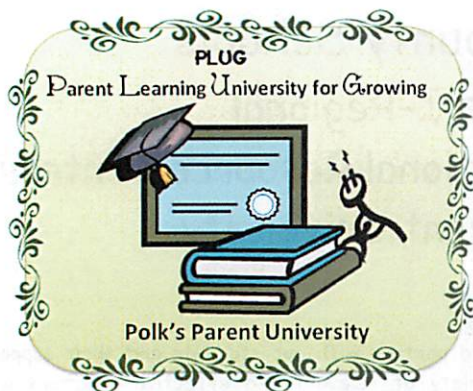
Staff

Each center will be staffed with a part-time Family Involvement Liaison. Staff names and phone numbers will be provided at a later date. Until the center is up and running, please contact the Title I office for information.



District and School-based Title I Parent Involvement Programs in Polk County will strive to **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS** to create **real** family engagement for **every** child, **every** family, **every** teacher, **every** day.

The Mission of Polk County Public Schools is to provide a high quality education for all students!



Parent Learning University for Growing! (PLUG)

Polk Parent Learning University for Growing (PLUG) is a collaborative community effort led by Polk County's Title I department and other parent involvement contacts within the school district to help parents become full partners in their children's education.

Parent University is a partnership with community agencies and organizations to offer free courses, family events and activities that will equip families with new or additional skills, knowledge, and resources. Workshops and classes will engage parents in innovative and meaningful partnerships for learning.

What is the Goal of Polk's Parent University?

The goal of Polk's Parent University is to increase parent involvement in the schools and empower parents to raise children who are successful in school and in life. Parent University is a way in which our school district, businesses, and other community organizations can provide education to parents.

The Focus Points of Polk's Parent University are...

- ✿ **Parenting Awareness:** Provides information and skills to assist parents in supporting their children through the developmental years; tips for parents on being an advocate for their child, being involved in parent leadership, and effective parenting skills.
- ✿ **Learning in the 21st Century:** Assists parents in staying current with trends in teaching and learning, along with the challenges associated with living in an age of technology.
- ✿ **Health and Wellness:** Emphasizes the importance of living a healthy life with a focus on physical, nutritional, and mental health.
- ✿ **Personal Growth:** Focuses on topics related to personal and professional growth and learning for adults.

Who can attend PLUG? Any parent of a student in a Polk County public school may attend.

Is there a cost to attend? Most workshops and classes will be a free service to parents of students in Polk schools. Some classes may require a small fee.

What times will classes be offered? Our goal is to provide workshops and classes to parents at flexible times/days: mornings, evenings and Saturdays. Courses are offered any day of the week and at times sensitive to the work and personal schedules of parents.

Who teaches the workshops? Workshops are facilitated by community and business professionals, district staff, parents, and students.

Will transportation be provided? Unfortunately, at this time transportation will not be provided. However, we will be working on a plan to provide transportation to parents to the parent centers or to workshops being held by the Parent University. We will try to work out something with Citrus Connection for bus passes.

Will childcare be provided? No, unfortunately at this time childcare will not be provided. However, we are working on plans to provide this service to parents in the future. We are going to try and partner with local educational universities and colleges to have interns or field study students participate by offering workshops or activities for children while parents attend a workshop.

Will translation be provided? It is our hope to have the centers staffed with a bilingual person. However, we can provide translators for workshops when requested.