



CONNECTING PARENTS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (CPEO)

Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities (CPEO) is a seven-week program designed especially for parents; bringing schools, parents, and community together as equal partners in the education of their children. The CPEO program is sponsored and supported by Minneapolis Public Schools' Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement Department. CPEO provides a framework for creating a community in which parents and teachers collaborate to transform each child's educational environment, both at home and at school, so that all children can achieve their greatest academic potential. CPEO is offered for parents with children in early childhood, elementary, middle, and high schools. The program is taught in four languages, English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali and when possible, for Native American and Special Ed families. Parents are provided the option to attend the program in the language of their choice. The facilitators of the program are language and ethnic specific.

As an empowerment model, CPEO is designed to connect parents to their children, connect parents to the school and university community, and connect parents to the decision making school committees. The curriculum for the CPEO program was adopted from Parent Institute of Quality Education (PIQE) which has headquarters in San Diego, California. PIQE was created over 20-years ago and provided programming for a diverse population of families of students that attend public schools in California. The PIQE program was created to raise the level of concerns of parents, provide them with useful and relevant information, and move parents to action. CPEO has proven to be a model program that supports the empowerment of parents thereby, increasing their skills and abilities to become active participants in their students' learning.

FACTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

- CPEO is modeled after the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE). PIQE was developed over 25-years ago in California, serving very diverse populations of families of students that attended the public schools. The philosophy of PIQE is based on the simple premise that all parents love their children and want a better future for them. Every child can learn and deserves the opportunity to attend and complete a college education, and parents and teachers must work together to ensure the educational success of every child. Children and learning is a natural process that parents and teachers can facilitate.
- Connecting Parents to Educational Opportunities (CPEO) is a seven-week program that provides a framework for helping parents to collaborate with school staff in support of the academic achievement of their children.
- CPEO is designed to support the district's strategic plan by providing parents with the necessary tools and skills to develop strong and positive home-school partnerships that build trusting relationships for supporting the academic achievement of their children.
- Each year CPEO is offered at 25-30 different MPS schools and has been offered at 45 different MPS schools in it's six years of existence. During this time CPEO has graduated over 5,300 parents.
- The program is currently being offered during the evening, but plans to offer workshops during the day are underway. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Limited transportation will be provided upon request.
- Parents that complete the program will receive a certificate of graduation and certificates for free Community Education and ECFE classes. Families that are admitted into the University of Minnesota or MCTC may be eligible to receive additional financial aid support if they meet the family income requirements.
- CPEO is designed to help parents create home learning environments, develop skills for collaborating with teachers, principals, and other school staff, and support parents in understanding the emotional and social development of their children.
- CPEO helps parents to navigate the school system by giving parents information regarding how the school system operates, discussing common terminology used for tests and assessments, and options and strategies for helping parents to prepare their children for college.

CURRICULUM

EARLY CHILDHOOD:

- Stages of Child Development
- Language Development
- Literacy and Reading To Our Children
- Our Children and Math
- Preparing Our Children For Kindergarten
- Expectations of Kindergarten Teachers

ELEMENTARY:

- Home/School collaboration
- The Home, Motivation and Self-esteem
- Communication and Discipline
- Academic Standards
- How the School System Functions
- The Road to the University

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Adolescence: A time of Change and Growth
- Positive Communication Enhances Self-Esteem
- How to Motivate Teenagers to Read
- Obstacles that get in the way of success in school
- How the School System Functions
- The Road to the University

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

- Final Destination – The University
- Classes that are Academically Rigorous
- High School Planning Chart
- Reviewing Other Important Requirements and Programs
- SAT and ACT
- Review of Academic Plan with Counselor
- Discussing High Education Options
- Financial Aid
- College Visit to University of Minnesota

If you have questions about the CPEO program or would like further information, please contact Damon Gunn

Damon Gunn
Program Coordinator
Minneapolis Public Schools
Office of Student, Family and Community Engagement
1250 West Broadway
Minneapolis, MN 55411
Phone: 612-668-2095
Fax: 612-668-2097
Damon.gunn@mpls.k12.mn.us