



PARENTAL READINESS AND  
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF  
THE LAWYERS'  
COMMITTEE FOR  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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# NEWSLETTER

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## TEACHER APPRECIATION

### Why should we appreciate teachers?

Teachers play a major role in our children's lives that go far beyond teaching how to read, write, and solve math problems. They encourage, enrich, and inspire their students to be better in every way possible. Their work makes a great difference that extends beyond the walls of a classroom. Since children spend most of their time in schools, great teachers become like a second parent or mentor. They are there to help them with issues that are not related to academics and influence the way a child views the world and themselves. Unlike other professions, teachers typically spend more hours outside the workday planning lessons in addition to grading assignments, papers, and tests.



### What happens when parents and teachers partner together?

Teachers who make an effort to reach out to parents often have a positive outcome. Parental engagement is an important part of ensuring that children have a successful education. Students are more likely to earn better grades, participate in extracurricular activities, enroll in high-level programs, graduate high school, and go on to college. Parents know their child the best and when they communicate with teachers about their child's background, culture, interest, and skills, the learning environment changes to better meet the needs of the student. The best results are achieved when parents and teachers collaborate together!





## Director's Comments

Teaching is an extremely important job. We celebrate teachers who have made it their mission to provide their students a meaningful education and have helped students specifically in low-income and marginalized communities overcome language, education, financial security, and discrimination barriers.

PREP is committed to improving education for all students through their performance, retention, and access to equal educational opportunities. We continue to encourage parents and advocates to engage and support their child's education, but we cannot do this on our own! Teachers should make an effort to connect with their students' parents because they play an integral role in helping with their child's learning at home and at school.

Teachers have the power to inspire their students to realize their maximum potential. Too many children are burdened by conditions of neglect and schools must become the source of help to the traumas our children are facing. The significance of a teacher in a classroom could be a lasting impact on a child's identity. It is our job as a nation to see that they are well developed academically, socio-economically, and ethically, because we all benefit.

**Natasha Quiroga is PREP Director and Senior Counsel for the Educational Opportunities Project.**

[www.PREPParents.org](http://www.PREPParents.org)



# PREP Resources

## NOW PLAYING...

### VIDEO TUTORIALS

- ◆ *Parent Advocacy*
- ◆ *Navigating the School System*
- ◆ *Special Education*

[www.youtube.com/prepparents](http://www.youtube.com/prepparents)

### STATE-SPECIFIC PARENT GUIDES

- ◆ *On education law and policies*

[www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/](http://www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/)

### RECORDED WEBINARS

- ◆ *Parent advocacy*
- ◆ *Mobilization*
- ◆ *Special Education Process*
- ◆ *School Discipline*
- ◆ *Bullying*

[www.prepparents.org/webinar](http://www.prepparents.org/webinar)

*Have questions about special education, school discipline, English language learners, Bullying, or discrimination-related issues? Are you a parent in California or New York? Check out our e-Clinic!*

[prepparents.org/appointments](http://prepparents.org/appointments)



# PEP TALK FROM PREP!

## Tips to help your child thrive in the classroom



### Cultural Recognition & Awareness

- Help the teacher foster a comfortable and welcoming learning environment for your child.
- Talk to the teacher about your child's background and culture. This will help them understand ways to best teach your child.



### Creativity in the Classroom

Suggestions you as a parent could give to a teacher to make the classroom engaging:

- Integrate more hands on and physical activities
- Make students read in groups or aloud to the class
- Introduce more nontraditional means of learning such as showing Ted Talks, or role playing to act out stories.

### Family engagement

Parental engagement matters for academic success!

- Set up a meeting with a teacher or a staff member at your convenience
- Maintain communication through email, letters, or phone calls
- Ask to attend student presentations
- Volunteer for events and field trips whenever you can
- Engage in your child's education at home

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