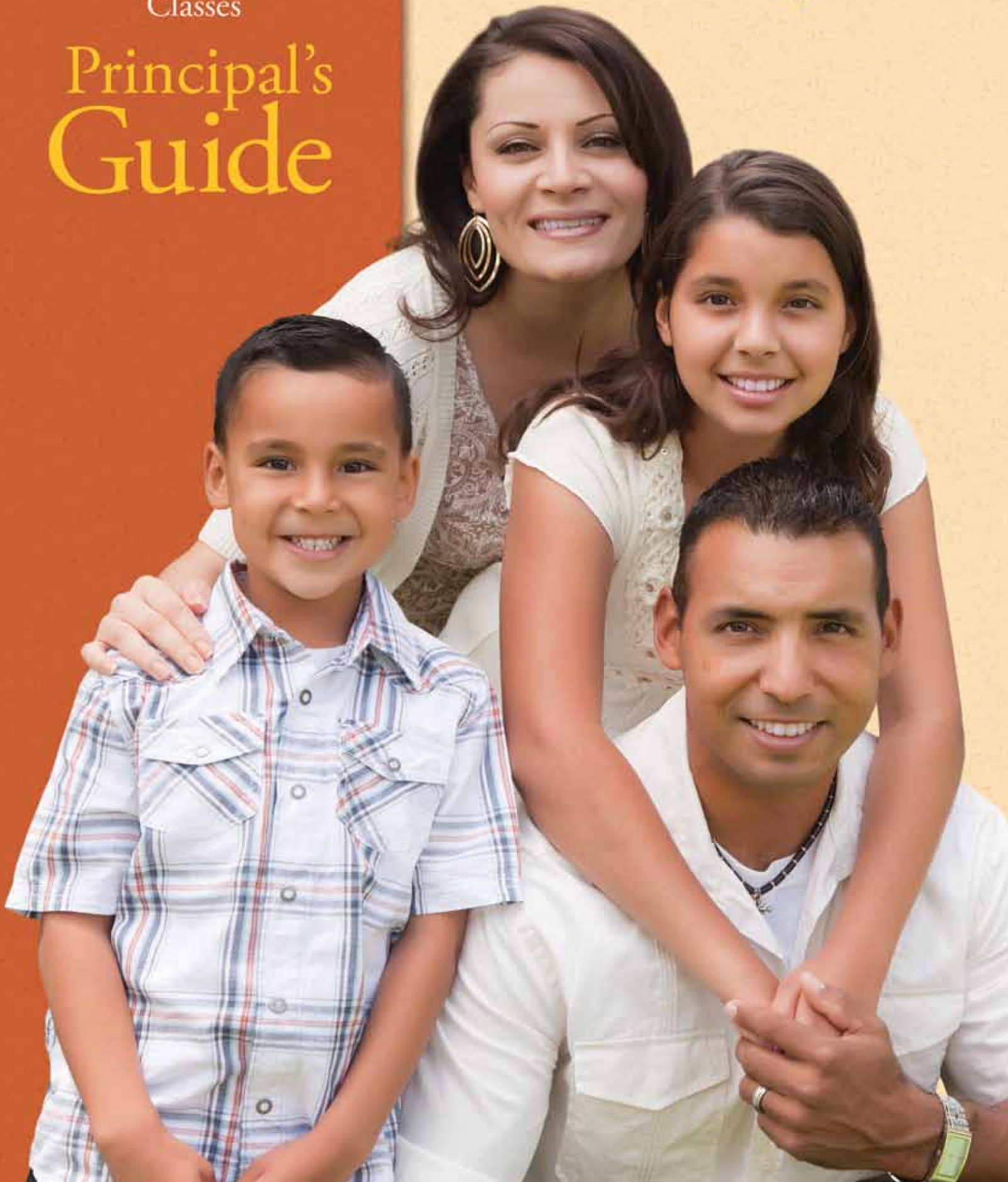


*Realizing the
American Dream
Classes*



Principal's Guide



Just imagine...

the student achievement and performance scores your school could produce if parents understood:

- That **school attendance** is critical to their child's academic success.
- That their **home environment** can support and encourage their child's academic success.
- How to make a **working plan** to be sure their child succeeds academically and graduates ready for further education.
- That they must work as **partners** with teachers, the principal and other school staff.
- How to **motivate** their child to succeed at school.
- Ways to help build their child's **reading skills** at home.
- Important **concepts and terms** they must know to help guide their child's academic success (GPA, Learning Standards, Core Classes and more).

The ADA research-proven program can help you boost student achievement and build college and career readiness through engaging parents in research-proven* classes offered right at your school. *Get started today!*



*Helping Families Achieve
the American Dream*

Research* on the American Dream Academy (ADA) program shows that parents who complete the classes understand the importance of working as partners with teachers, the principal and other school staff.

*Read the independent research report on the American Dream Academy (ADA) detailing what nearly 3,000 parents learned from the latest ADA classes at www.AmericanDreamAcademy.org/research.

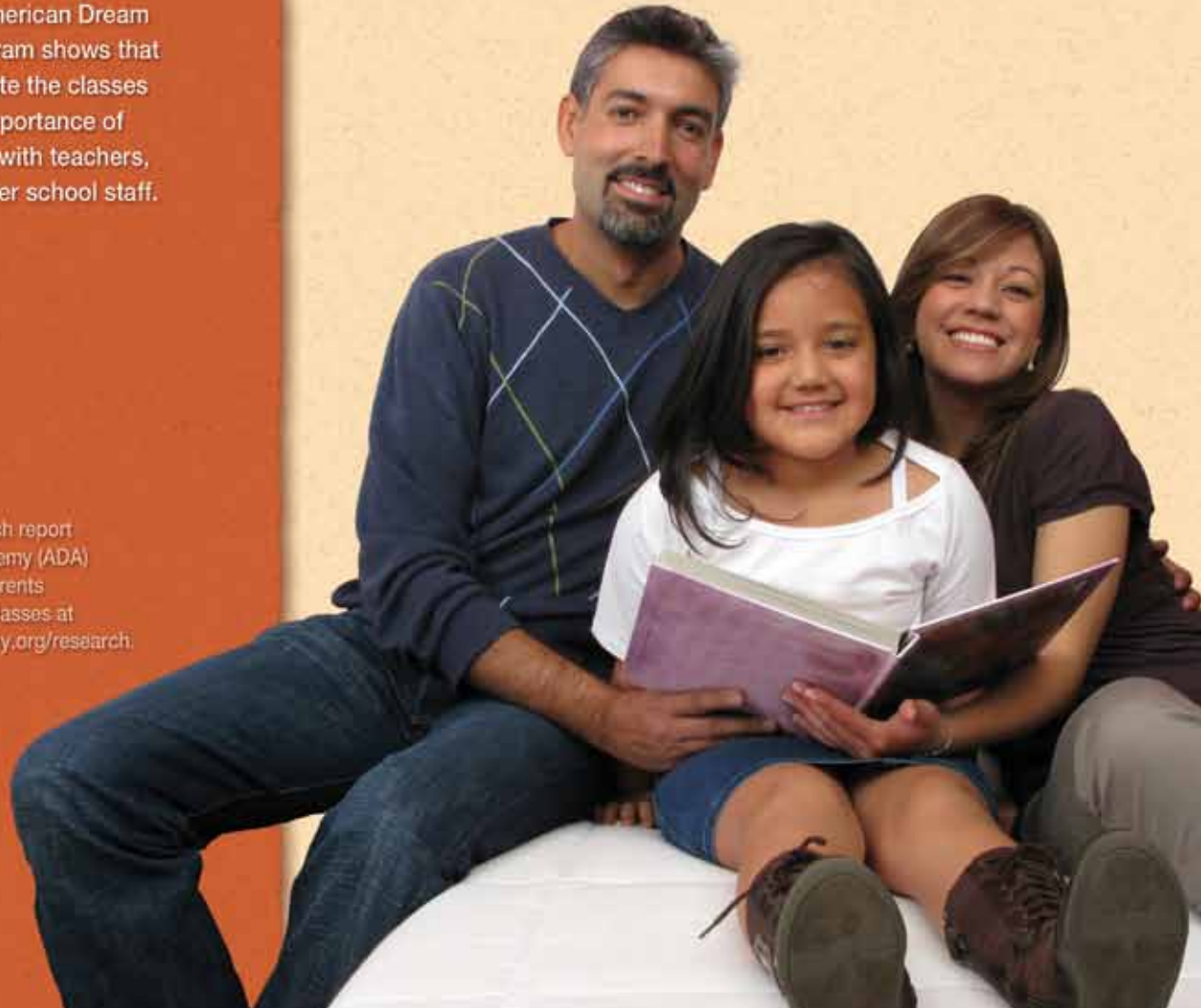


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The *American Dream Academy* benefits schools, students and parents!

Our Mission:

To help families gain the tools and confidence to join forces with schools and communities to make sure their children have successful academic careers.

Our Vision:

A world where every child graduates from high school prepared and empowered to successfully continue on the path to a higher education.

About ADA:

The American Dream Academy (ADA) is the signature program of the Center for Community Development and Civil Rights (the Center) at Arizona State University (ASU). ADA is the key that helps families open the door to the transformative power of education. Our programs help families take charge of their children's education, build stronger families and communities, and emphasize our core belief that education is the key to success in our country.

Our core program, based on the *Realizing the American Dream* curriculum, helps parents become better partners with schools in the education of their children. And, this remarkable, research-based parent training program is available at a price every school and district can afford!

More than 16,000 parents have already completed the ADA parent training program and committed themselves to making a difference in their child's education and achievement. The result is over 41,000 low-income school children are on the pathway to succeeding in school, graduating from high school and attending college.

The ADA program is research-based

The ADA program is built on the solid research foundation that parents are the single most effective—and most overlooked—resource in student achievement. If you help parents, you will help students—and your school.

Decades of research results are clear and compelling: while schools provide an invaluable foundation of knowledge, parents have an enormous impact on the achievement outcomes of your students. Now, with the ADA parent engagement program, you can have the unique power to dramatically improve the odds of success for hundreds of children. By engaging parents with the ADA program, you can make sure parents understand their role in their child's success and teach them how to implement a simple academic success plan that can make a life-changing difference in their child. The program can be implemented with parents in grades K-12. It is never too late to help parents or their children!

“The *American Dream Academy* (ADA) program is based upon more than 10 years of university research* into what schools can do to *get* parents involved and teach them how to *support* their children's academic achievement.”

* J.M.T. Walker, K.V. Hoover-Dempsey, C.L. Ice & M.C. Whitaker, "Parental involvement supports better student learning," In R. Deslandes, ed., *International Perspectives on Student Outcomes and Homework: Family-School-Community Partnerships* (pp. 25-38), Routledge



Imagine the benefits to your school/district achievement when parents of students in low-performing subgroups understand their role in home-school teamwork; student responsibility and self-discipline; how they can help their child at school and at home; and understanding the roles of teachers, counselors and principals. Parents who participate in the ADA program learn how to improve the academic skills of their child through an easy-to-understand, research-based, step-by-step approach.

Most importantly, parents will learn how to make a commitment to success with their child and set high expectations for college and career readiness.

Creating college- and career-ready students

Through ADA's proven, research-based and rigorous parent-training program, you can help students become college and career ready—and ensure your school's success at the same time!

Research-Based Curriculum

The American Dream Academy curriculum:

Realizing the American Dream

ADA's curriculum *Realizing the American Dream* was written by The Parent Institute, one of education's most respected publishers of family involvement materials, to put into action years of research about how to successfully engage parents in the education of their children.* The curriculum will teach all of your parents (or, if you choose, just those parents in particular subgroups) the steps necessary to help them realize the American dream of college and career readiness for their children and show them how to become effective partners with your school in boosting student achievement. Over 140 schools and organizations have been served and are delighted with the results! In fact, 100% of the schools want ADA to return!

The Success Ladder

Parents will learn how to help their children achieve academic success by climbing the steps of the Success Ladder. Two-hour classes are held once a week for 10 weeks for parents of elementary school, middle school or high school students.

* K.V. Hoover-Dempsey, J.M.T. Walker, H.M. Sandler, D.R. Whetsel, C.L. Green, A.S. Wilkins & K.E. Clossen, "Why do parents become involved? Research findings and implications." *Elementary School Journal*.



Elementary School

Curriculum Objectives



Welcome, Overview and Registration Meeting

1. Learn about the high dropout rate for many students, especially those in various minority groups.
2. Understand the need to make a family commitment to helping your child succeed in school academically and graduate from high school prepared to go on to higher education.
3. Register to participate in the classes.

Class 1: *You Make the Difference!*

1. Learn how to climb the “Success Ladder” to help your child achieve academic success and have the opportunity to get a higher education upon graduation from high school.
2. Understand how to make a commitment to success.
3. Understand how to make your success expectations clear.
4. Understand your role in the education of your child.
5. Understand that simple things you can do will help your child succeed academically.
6. Learn about learning resources and opportunities available to help you with your child’s educational development.

Class 2: *Being a Partner With Your School*

1. Understand your role and that of the school, principal, counselor, teachers, parent liaison and community in the education of your child.
2. Understand the requirements for being a “partner”—what you must do and what you should expect of others.
3. Understand how and when to meet and stay in touch with your key partners: the teacher, counselor and principal.
4. Learn how to prepare for a parent-teacher conference.
5. Understand important terms and facts about how your school and school system operate.
6. Understand important elementary school terms and concepts.
7. Discuss Step 1 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 3: *Academic Standards & Performance Requirements*

1. Understand the important terms, requirements, academic standards and standardized tests that apply to your child and your child’s school.
2. Understand the importance of regular school attendance for your child’s academic success.
3. Learn effective ways to create a home environment that supports and encourages your child’s academic success, including good homework and study skills.
4. Learn practical ways you can help your child succeed on standardized tests.
5. Discuss Step 2 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 4: *Success Factors: Communication & Discipline*

1. Understand important terms and concepts.
2. Learn how to use and maintain effective two-way communication with your child.
3. Understand how to establish and maintain firm, fair and consistent discipline for your child at home.
4. Discuss Step 3 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 5: *Success Factors: Self-Esteem & Motivation*

1. Understand important terms and facts about university admission requirements.
2. Learn effective ways to build your child’s self-esteem.
3. Learn effective ways to motivate your child.
4. Prepare for the Principal’s Forum.
5. Discuss Step 4 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 6: *Success Factors: Reading & Spending Time Together*

1. Understand why reading is so important to academic success and learn the most effective things you can do to make sure your child develops excellent reading skills.
2. Understand the importance of spending time with your child and learn practical ways to do it.
3. Understand how you affect your child’s achievement and how to make your involvement most effective.
4. Discuss Step 5 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 7: *Your Academic Success Plan*

1. Complete each step of your Academic Success Plan.
2. Learn effective ways to follow your Academic Success Plan and keep it alive year after year—until your child goes to a university.
3. Review procedures for next week’s Principal’s Forum.

Principal’s Forum

1. Review questions that members of the class have developed for the principal to address.
2. Principal responds to parents’ questions.
3. Have an open discussion centered on the questions class members have asked.

Graduation

1. Hear comments from ADA and school officials about the progress in the classes.
2. Hear comments from graduating parents selected by other parents in class to represent them at graduation.


Academic Success Plan: Step 1

Our American Dream Academy classes include a personalized Academic Success Plan—a step by step guide to helping your child prepare for a university education. You will fill out the entire Academic Success Plan in Class 7. Today we will discuss Step 1.

Step 1 of your Academic Success Plan is all about committing to your child's success. Graduating from high school and continuing on to a university education isn't easy. And your child can't do it without your help. So that's why it's important to start the process by making a commitment to your child's success—and to being there with your child every step of the way.

Below is a sample page of Step 1 of your Academic Success Plan. As you read it over, think about how you can commit to your child's success.

Step 1: Commit to success
(See Lesson Book—Class 1)



What I will do <small>(Circle the actions and tasks you find important and fill out one or two.)</small>	When I will do it <small>(Circle the time to do for when you plan to complete each action.)</small>
Talk with my child about starting over to prepare for a university education.	a
Get my child's commitment to do his or her best work and to prepare for a university education.	b, g
Make a family commitment to my child's academic success and to preparing for a university education.	b
Tell my friends about our family's commitment to my child's academic success and to preparing for a university education.	At the party on Friday
Tell my child's teacher and the principal of my child's school about our family's commitment to our child's academic success and to preparing for a university education.	h
Other action: When I put my child's allowance in the envelope each week, I will include a note about saving some of it for going to university.	i

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Elementary School Parent Curriculum Samples

Step-by-step plans break information into easily implemented stages

Interactive forms encourage independent parent planning

Easy-to-understand text is worded simply in short, digestible sections

Simple, friendly illustrations reinforce the main theme at a glance and invite parents into the page

Academic Standards & Performance Requirements

2. To Learn at School, Your Child Must *Be* at School!

You may not think you're doing anything special when you help your child get off to school each morning. It's just part of the routine. But think again. Experts say there's nothing more important to school success than regular attendance. So, if your child's regular school attendance is routine for your family, you are fulfilling a critical responsibility. You are providing the foundation for your child's learning. And that is special indeed.

Reasons why regular attendance is essential:

- **Regular attendance builds good habits.** It is often said that "Ninety percent of success is just showing up." There is truth to that. A student who goes to school regularly is more likely to become a university student who goes to class regularly. Then he becomes an employee who goes to work regularly.
- **Students can't learn when they're not in class.** Learning depends on teachers working with students. It also depends on hearing answers to questions other students ask. It depends on group work and using school resources. Your child will miss all this if he is not in the classroom.
- **Learning builds day by day.** Today's learning builds on what happened in class yesterday. If your child wasn't there, it's like a broken chain—a link is missing.
- **Good grades depend on good attendance.** Most elementary teachers try not to overload students with too much homework. They base their tests on material they cover in class. A child who comes to class, listens well and does his work will probably earn good grades. A child who misses class may not.
- **Attendance is about responsibility.** A child who attends school regularly also learns responsibility. He tends to take responsibility for following all rules. He stays out of trouble at school. He does homework and chores at home.
- **Attendance and graduation go hand in hand.** You now know that a student with good attendance is more likely to earn good grades and have good behavior. Do that for 13 years and what do you get? A diploma—your child's ticket to attending a university!



Middle School

Curriculum Objectives



Welcome, Overview and Registration Meeting

1. Learn about the high dropout rate for many students, especially those in various minority groups.
2. Understand the need to make a family commitment to helping your child succeed in school academically and graduate from high school prepared to go on to higher education.
3. Register to participate in the classes.

Class 1: *You Make the Difference!*

1. Understand the changes that occur in middle school students.
2. Learn how to climb the “Success Ladder” to help your child achieve academic success and have the opportunity to get a higher education upon graduation from high school.
3. Understand how to make a commitment to success.
4. Understand how to make your success expectations clear.

Class 2: *Being a Partner With Your School*

1. Understand the role of your partners in the education of your child.
2. Understand important facts about how your school and school system operate.
3. Understand important middle school terms and concepts.
4. Understand how to make the most of conferences with the teacher.
5. Understand the influence you have on your child’s education and how you can help your child find a mentor.
6. Discuss Step 1 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 3: *Academic Standards & Performance Requirements*

1. Understand important terms and requirements that apply to being on track for university admission.
2. Learn about the high school Four-Year Plan curriculum leading to university admission.
3. Learn how to use a University Preparation Checklist to assess and monitor your child’s level of preparation for high school graduation and university admission.
4. Learn practical ways to help your child develop effective study skills and good time management.
5. Learn practical ways to help your child prepare for standardized tests.
6. Discuss Step 2 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 4: *Success Factors: Communication & Discipline*

1. Understand important middle school terms and concepts.
2. Understand the importance of regular school attendance for your child’s success.
3. Learn how to keep your child in school and out of trouble.
4. Understand how to establish and maintain firm, fair and consistent discipline for your child at home.
5. Learn how to develop and maintain effective two-way communication with your middle school child.
6. Discuss Step 3 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 5: *Success Factors: Self-Esteem & Motivation*

1. Understand important terms and facts about university admission requirements.
2. Learn effective ways to build your child’s self-esteem.
3. Learn effective ways to motivate your child.
4. Prepare for the Principal’s Forum.
5. Discuss Step 4 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 6: *Success Factors: Reading & Spending Time Together*

1. Understand why reading is so important to academic success and learn the most effective things you can do to make sure your child develops excellent reading skills.
2. Understand the importance of spending time with your child and learn practical ways to do it.
3. Understand how you affect your child’s achievement and how to make your involvement most effective.
4. Learn how to find and use no-cost/low-cost tutorial resources to help your child.
5. Discuss Step 5 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 7: *Your Academic Success Plan*

1. Complete each step of your Academic Success Plan.
2. Learn effective ways to follow your Academic Success Plan and keep it alive year after year—until your child goes to a university.
3. Review procedures for next week’s Principal’s Forum.

Principal’s Forum

1. Review questions that members of the class have developed for the principal to address.
2. Principal responds to parents’ questions.
3. Have an open discussion centered on the questions class members have asked.

Graduation

1. Hear comments from ADA and school officials about the progress in the classes.
2. Hear comments from graduating parents selected by other parents in class to represent them at graduation.

Academic Standards & Performance Requirements

2. Four-Year Plan and Academic Standards

In high school, your child will follow a road map to his future. It's called a **Four-Year Plan**. This is a carefully-constructed plan of your child's high school curriculum that will prepare him for university admission.



You and your child should be aware that taking the appropriate—and most challenging—classes in middle school, and earning good grades in those classes, will have an important impact in determining the classes your child will take during his four years in high school. So it's important to begin planning for the high school Four-Year Plan in middle school!

Talk to your child's guidance counselor about the courses offered in your middle school. Together, discuss the classes that not only match your child's interests and abilities, but also challenge him. Talk with his teachers, as well.

As your child prepares to move on to high school, meet with the counselor to discuss the Four-Year Plan. In high school, every class he takes will be important in determining whether he is prepared to attend a university. Talk with your child's teachers to see if he can enroll in AP or Honors levels of the core classes mentioned below when he enters high school.

Here is a sample of a high school Four-Year Plan leading to university admission.

9th Grade Freshman Year	10th Grade Sophomore Year	11th Grade Junior Year	12th Grade Senior Year
English I	English II	English III	English IV
Mathematics (Algebra I/Geometry)	Mathematics (Geometry/Algebra II)	Mathematics (Algebra II/Pre-Calculus)	Mathematics (IB/Pre-Calculus/Calculus)
Science (Earth Science/Biology)	Science (Biology/Chemistry)	Science (Chemistry/Physics)	Govern Econo
History/Geography	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Foreig
P.E.	Fine Arts	American/AZ History	Electv
Computer Science/ Elective	Elective	Elective	

Middle School Parent Curriculum Samples

Important themes, such as **planning ahead** (often overlooked by parents who did not attend college), are introduced early in the curriculum and reinforced with specific goals and suggestions

Simple diagrams and charts add immediate visual impact and invite further reading

Being a Partner With Your School

5. You Have Tremendous Influence on Your Child's Education

Parents are the most important adults in a child's life. But in middle school, children begin to pull away from their parents in order to show their growing sense of independence. Yet middle schoolers need (and want) parental support. So make sure you stay involved!

Parents are teachers, too!

Experts say that you are your child's first and most influential teacher. You saw your child start learning the day she was born! She responded to your face, to your voice and to what she saw, felt, heard and smelled. Even today, she is learning how to get organized, do chores around the house and get along with other people by watching how you do those things.

Children spend much more time learning at home than at school.



Think about it:

Out of all the hours your child is awake and learning—from the time she was born until she graduates from high school—she will spend only about 15 percent of her time in school. The other 85 percent is spent outside school—and much of it at home with you!

Whether you think of yourself as a teacher or not, you have already taught your child some of the most important lessons she will ever learn.

Parents can do four important things

When parents get involved in their children's education, students get better grades in school and are more likely to graduate from high school and go on to a university. Researchers have found that the four most important things you can do as a parent are to:

1. Encourage your child to succeed academically.

Encourage him to:

- Tackle his schoolwork when he doesn't feel like doing it.
- Look for more information about school subjects.
- Develop an interest in schoolwork.
- Believe that he can do well in school.
- Stick with a problem until he solves it.



High School

Curriculum Objectives



Welcome, Overview and Registration Meeting

1. Learn about the high dropout rate for many students, especially those in various minority groups.
2. Understand the need to make a family commitment to helping your child succeed in school academically and graduate from high school prepared to go on to higher education.
3. Register to participate in the classes.

Class 1: *You Make the Difference!*

1. Understand the key differences between middle school and high school, the normal development of high school students and the challenges parents of high school students face.
2. Understand your student's Four-Year Plan for graduating from high school prepared to enter a university.
3. Learn how to climb the "Success Ladder" to help your child achieve academic success and have the opportunity to go to a university upon graduation from high school.
4. Understand how to make a commitment to success.
5. Understand how to make your success expectations clear.

Class 2: *Being a Partner With Your School*

1. Understand the role of your partners in the education of your child.
2. Understand important facts about how your school and school system operate.
3. Understand important high school terms and concepts.
4. Understand how to make the most of conferences with the teacher.
5. Understand the influence you have on your child's education and how you can help your child find a mentor.
6. Discuss Step 1 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 3: *Academic Requirements & Planning for University*

1. Understand important terms, requirements, programs, academic standards, and standardized tests.
2. Understand and learn how to use the **University Preparation Checklist** for each high school grade level to make sure your child graduates prepared to enter a university.
3. Talk about ways to support and encourage your child's academic success.
4. Discuss Step 2 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 4: *Success Factors: Communication & Discipline*

1. Understand important high school terms and concepts.
2. Learn how to establish and maintain good two-way communication with your child.
3. Understand how to establish and maintain firm, fair and consistent discipline at home.
4. Learn how to help your child with time management skills.
5. Learn how to keep your child in school and out of trouble.
6. Discuss Step 3 of your Academic Success Plan.

Class 5: *Success Factors: Self-Esteem & Motivation*

1. Understand important terms and facts about university admission requirements.
2. Learn effective ways to build your child's self-esteem.
3. Understand how to help your child develop effective study skills and prepare for standardized tests.
4. Learn effective ways to motivate your child.
5. Prepare for the Principal's Forum.
6. Discuss Step 4 of the Academic Success Plan.

Class 6: *Success Factors: Reading & Spending Time Together*

1. Learn how to find and use no-cost/low-cost tutorial resources as necessary to help your child.
2. Learn how to find financial assistance to help fund your child's university education.
3. Understand why reading is so important to school success and learn the most effective things you can do to make sure your student develops excellent reading skills.
4. Understand the importance of spending time with your child and learn practical ways to do it.
5. Discuss Step 5 of the Academic Success Plan.

Class 7: *Your Academic Success Plan*

1. Complete each step of the Academic Success Plan.
2. Learn effective ways to follow your Academic Success Plan and keep it alive year after year.
3. Review procedures for next week's Principal's Forum.

Principal's Forum

1. Review questions that members of the class have developed for the principal to address.
2. Principal responds to parents' questions.
3. Have an open discussion centered on the questions class members have asked.

Graduation

1. Hear comments from ADA and school officials about the progress in the classes.
2. Hear comments from graduating parents selected by other parents in class to represent them at graduation.

5. To Get Success, Expect it!

It's easy to expect things of your child. *Be kind. Make friends. Succeed in school. Earn a university degree.* The challenge is to have your expectations met!

Remember that your child cannot make and carry out a plan for success alone. *You* have the experience, the maturity and the knowledge about the importance of education. Your child does not. There is power in your expectations. Without your expectations, it would be much more difficult for your child to succeed.

Setting Expectations

Whether they do it consciously or unconsciously, children work hard to do what they believe is expected of them. Tell them, and show them, what you expect ... and you'll get results!

High School Parent Curriculum Samples

Calls-to-action are easy to understand and stress an *opportunity* rather than a problem

Make the most of your expectations

When setting expectations for your child, follow five basic rules:

- 1. Choose carefully.** What's best for your child? What is most important for your high school student to do right now? Make a list of positive goals to discuss with your child, such as "Maintain good attendance," "Finish my research project on time," "Get a B on my pre-calculus test" and "Participate in an after-school activity." Review the list together. Talk about the impact of these goals on university admission.
- 2. Be clear.** To make sure your child understands your expectations, use specific examples. "To succeed in school, you have to finish your homework every day. Use a calendar to keep up with assignments and manage your time. That's what I expect of you. I know you can do it and I'm here to help." It's smart to keep in touch with the school counselor to make sure your child is taking the right classes for university admission.



Fill-in forms serve as organizing tools for parents and encourage scheduled monitoring of their child's progress

- Keep track of grades.** Make note of grades your child receives for tests, quizzes, homework, midterm exams, etc. in each subject. Write them in the blank spaces in the chart below. (Add or modify classes as needed.)
- Calculate the GPA at the end of the year.** (A chart like the one below may be helpful.)

9th Grade Classes	1 st Quarter		2 nd Quarter		3 rd Quarter		4 th Quarter	
	Tests, quizzes, homework	Grade	Tests, quizzes, homework	Grade	Tests, quizzes, homework	Grade	Tests, quizzes, homework	Final Grade
English								
Math								
Science								
Social Studies								
								GPA

- Work on strengthening academic skills throughout the year.** Ask for recommendations from teachers and other school officials about areas where extra study or tutoring would be helpful in preparation for university work. Keep a record of the steps you're taking.

Plan to strengthen academic skills

Example: conference with teacher; 30 min. extra daily reading; after-school peer tutoring; time management; better attendance; summer school

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Building the American Dream



Research Results

Research* findings show that parent engagement...

1. Benefits students through:

Higher grades and test scores, better attendance, more homework done, higher graduation rates, and greater enrollment in post-secondary education.

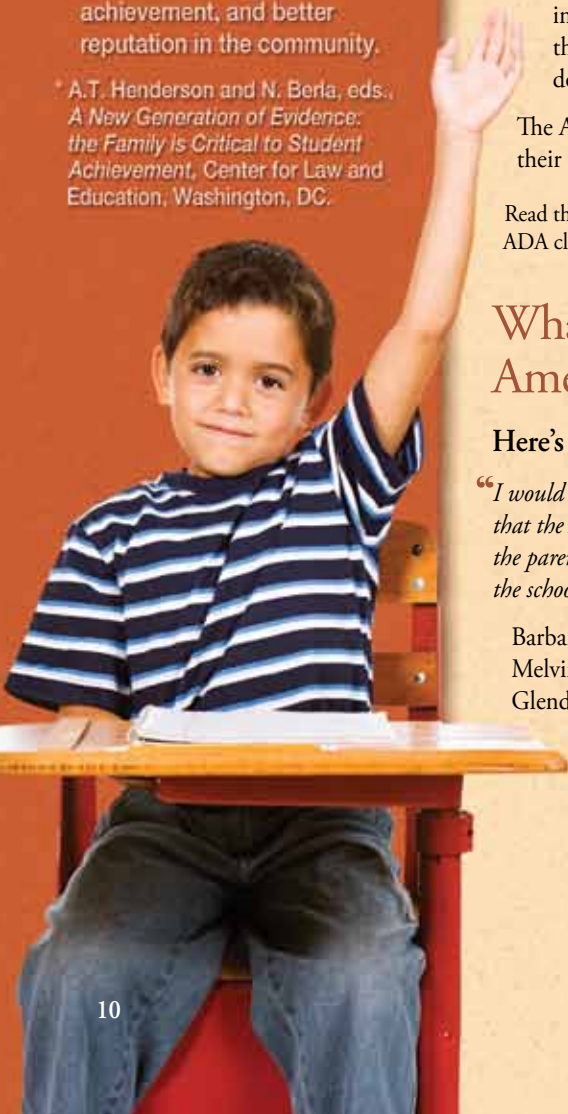
2. Benefits parents through:

Higher teacher expectations of their children, more confidence in the school, higher teacher opinions of them as parents, more self-confidence, and a greater likelihood of continuing their own education.

3. Benefits schools through:

Improving teacher morale, higher ratings of teachers by parents, more support from families, higher student achievement, and better reputation in the community.

* A.T. Henderson and N. Berla, eds., *A New Generation of Evidence: the Family is Critical to Student Achievement*, Center for Law and Education, Washington, DC.



on the American Dream Academy program

The ADA program can help you reach all of your goals, because when you help parents, your students and your school benefit!

Research proves the ADA program helps parents:

- Increase their skills and knowledge to support their child's education.
- Increase their understanding of how to prepare their child for high school graduation and beyond.
- Learn the value of school attendance.
- Learn the motivational secrets and importance of firm, fair and consistent discipline at home.

In 2010 and 2011, nearly 3,000 parents participated in the ADA program. Analysis of surveys completed by these parents before and after the program revealed substantial gains in several areas important to children's education.

First, the most impressive gains were made in parents' skills and knowledge for supporting their child's education. In particular, parents gained an enhanced understanding of what they can do at home to influence their children's academic success, including the steps required to complete high school and prepare for higher education.

Further, parents made important gains in understanding the importance of communication; motivating their child; school attendance and how to maintain firm, fair and consistent discipline at home.

The survey item: "I am my child's first and most important teacher" was strong in both pre- and post-surveys. This finding is interpreted to be a result of the fact that most parents have a strong desire to help their children succeed, but simply don't know what to do.

The ADA program helps parents understand that they are THE unique resource required for their child's success and teaches them the skills they need to help their child.

Read the latest independent research report detailing what nearly 3,000 parents learned from the latest ADA classes at www.AmericanDreamAcademy.org/research.

What people are saying about the American Dream Academy program

Here's what school leaders say:

"I would tell others [considering the program] that the ADA program is worth the effort, that the parents will be very appreciative and that the school and students will see many rewards."

Barbara Hill, Principal
Melvin E. Sine Elementary School
Glendale, AZ

"My school has seen: 1. More parent understanding for the purpose of standardized assessments and what the scores mean. 2. More interaction between parent and teacher. 3. A better connection between home and school."

Rick Horvath, Principal
Gililand Middle School
Tempe, AZ

"The ADA program is a benefit that all parents deserve. Participation should be required."

Teresa Soto, Principal
Riverside Traditional School
Phoenix, AZ

Here's what **graduating parents** say:

"We learned how to handle each academic step in our children's education and how to work actively in the school especially to ensure communication in each class. We understand the necessity of discipline and the importance of supporting the self esteem of our children, of spending time with them to plan the steps to the university, such as finding financial aid and working together with our children to achieve academic success."

Felix Arambula, Bostrom High School

"The American Dream Academy taught us how to support our children, how to communicate with them and school officials and how to plan together for a better future through education."

Jose Manuel Moreno Cota, Cesar Chavez High School

"We thought that by just sending our children to school and hearing them talk in English we were fulfilling our roles as responsible parents. But boy were we wrong. From the beginning of the course, our facilitator opened our eyes. She transmitted her joy, information and her desire for us to change our future and, most of all, our children's future in order to attain our American Dream."

Raquel Castillo, Don Mensendick School

"I will scream from the mountaintops with a lot of pride and effort that I, Irene Sánchez, will help my daughters succeed and I am proud of myself for being able to achieve that. Thank you, American Dream Academy."

Irene Erika del Carmen Sánchez Saldaña,
Frank Davidson Elementary

"We received the information and tools necessary to become an active part of our children's education and dreams. We learned how to become a part of the team to help our children succeed."

Ana Escarcega, Granada East

To read more graduation comments from parents committing themselves to their children's education and success, go to www.AmericanDreamAcademy.org/grad-speeches.

Here's what **community and state leaders** say:

"With a focus on retention, graduation and academic success, the American Dream Academy instills an understanding of the value of attaining an education, and can offer a pathway out of poverty for many people."

Michael M. Crow, President
Arizona State University

"As a former educator, I know firsthand the value of motivating parents to be involved in their child's school. The American Dream Academy's parental program motivates parents to be the stewards of their children's educational futures. I can attest to the fact that teachers, parents and administrators are strengthened by this program both in the short and long term and families are encouraged to actively pursue discussions of college readiness at all levels of the K-12 educational path. Graduates are adamant and focused on college readiness for their children and are equipped with the tools to get them there."

Ed Pastor, U.S. Congressman
4th District, Arizona

"Access to effective academic attainment is a core value of the American educational system. The mission of the American Dream Academy is to empower families to help their children achieve academic success."

Lisa Graham Keegan, Founder & President
Education Breakthrough Network

"The American Dream Academy demonstrates all that Salt River Project believes in: building a strong community and empowering individuals to improve their lives and the lives of their loved ones. We are proud to continue to support an essential and exemplary educational program."

Mark Bonsall, General Manager
Salt River Project



Implementation is Easy and the rewards are Great

The ADA is an easy-to-implement program—with little to no work on your, or your staff's, part!

But the rewards to students, parents and your school are great. Here are some of the services we provide as part of the program to make the implementation as easy as possible:

Trained Facilitators:

The American Dream Academy provides trained facilitators who are native-language speakers with credibility among the parents they are teaching.

Promoting the Program:

Think parents won't come to the meetings? Think again! The ADA staff will provide parent invitation letters, parent flyers, and follow-up phone calls through our call center (all in English and Spanish) and help build relationships with families. Every parent will know they are invited to the program and that your school/district sincerely wants to help them help their child succeed. All of this service is part of the all-inclusive program!

Flyers and Letters to Parents

At least two weeks prior to Class 1, the school will send an ADA-provided parent flyer home with students explaining the program and giving basic logistical information. Schools may decide to change the flyer or design their own. On occasion, and with explicit approval from the principal, ADA staff will also distribute flyers to parents before and/or after school.

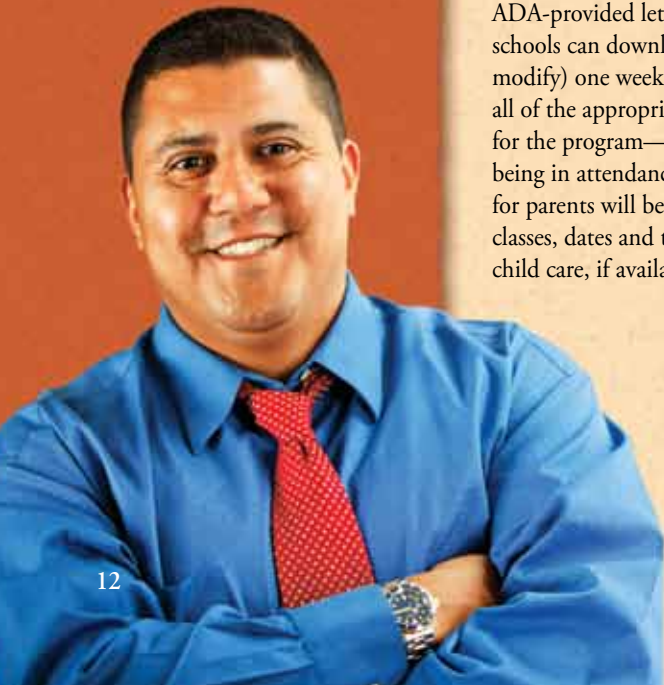
The school should also send an ADA-provided letter to parents (which schools can download and are free to modify) one week before Class 1 containing all of the appropriate logistical information for the program—i.e., the importance of being in attendance, where the free classes for parents will be held, the topics of the classes, dates and times, information on child care, if available, and more.

The collage shows various materials used for program promotion:

- Parent Flyers:** One in English titled "Parents, Learn How To Help Your Child Succeed!" and another in Spanish titled "Padres, ¡aprendan cómo ayudar a sus hijos a lograr el éxito!". Both mention "FREE Classes!" and "¡Clases GRATUITAS!".
- School Information Form:** A form titled "School Information Form" from the American Dream Academy, asking for school and parent details.
- Letter to Parents:** A letter titled "YOU ARE INVITED TO Help Your Child Succeed! FREE Classes for Parents!" in English, and its Spanish equivalent "¡ESTÁ INVITADO a ayudar a su hijo a lograr el éxito! ¡Clases GRATUITAS para padres!".

“ I love seeing how excited parents get when they realize the power they have to improve their children's academic success... and how they can make a plan for them to attend a university! ”

— ADA Facilitator



The customizable flyer and letter (available in Spanish and English) for each academic level—elementary school, middle school and high school—can be downloaded from our website at www.americandreamacademy.org.

Call Center

The school provides a roster of the parents to be invited and contact information, if available, one month prior to the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting. The trained operators at the ADA professional call center do the rest! Our expert ADA telephone representatives will begin a series of calls to your parents (in English or Spanish) to make them feel at ease with the program and to help establish the mutual trust that will be vital between the parents and your school to help their children succeed. Calls to parents will begin four days prior to the start of the program. Every family will receive at least one telephone call. During the program, our facilitators and callers will contact parents often to make sure they will continue their class attendance and answer any questions they may have about the program or class content.

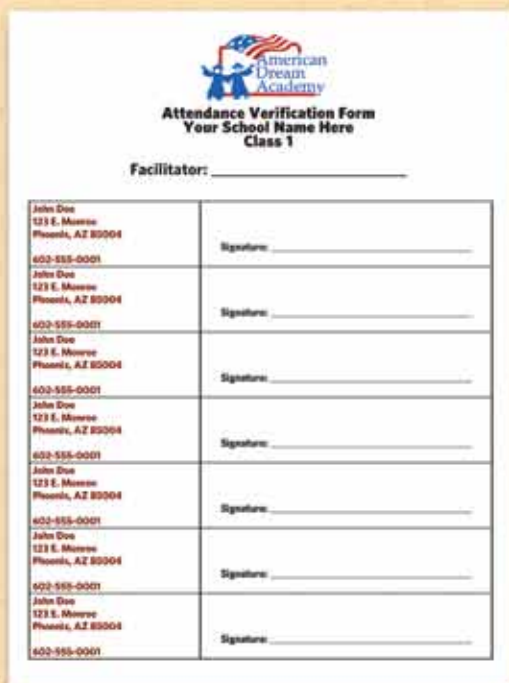
Support

The ADA team is with you every step of the way to give you all the support you need to implement the program at your school. Our success is determined by your success!

Weekly Attendance Roster

ADA knows the importance of attendance, which is why we take on the task of detailed recordkeeping. The attendance of each parent is recorded weekly along with his or her signature on the **Attendance Verification Form**. These forms are available to the school at any time throughout the program, with all supporting documentation provided in the final week.

The American Dream Academy team is with you every step of the way to give you all the support you need.

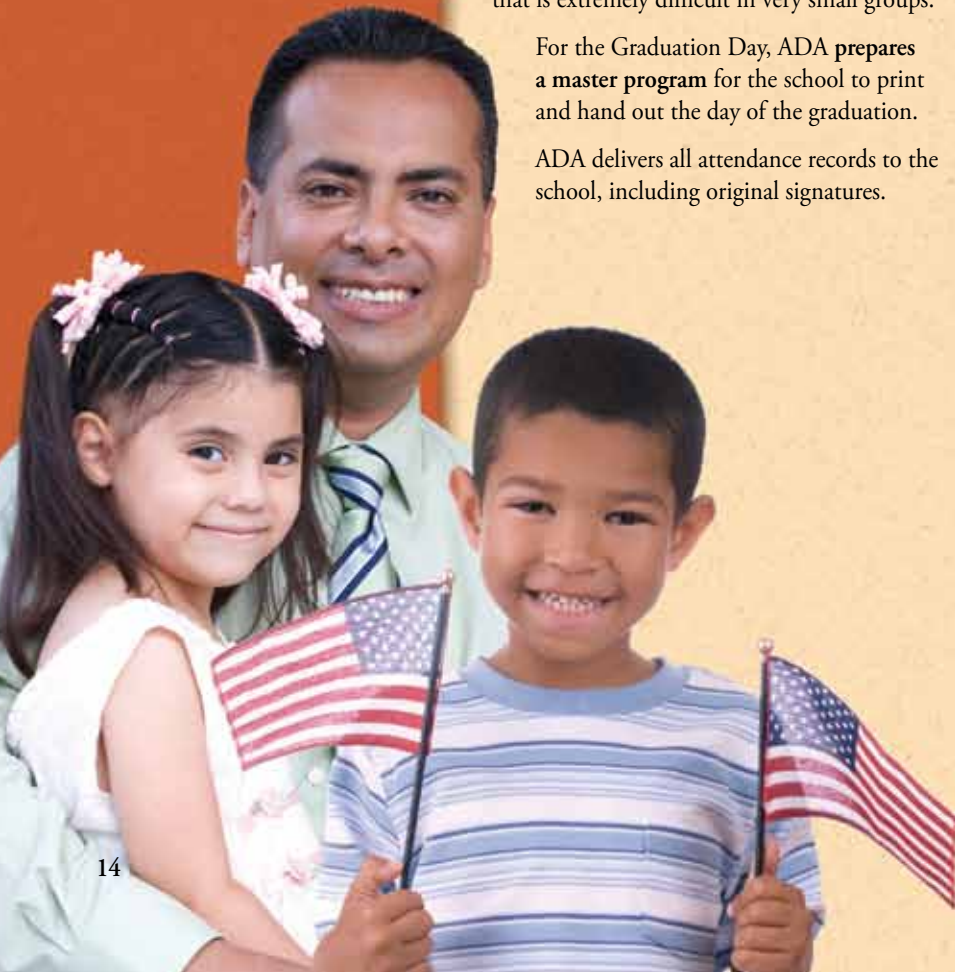


The form is titled "Attendance Verification Form" with a sub-header "Your School Name Here Class 1". It features the American Dream Academy logo at the top. Below the title is a line for "Facilitator:". The main body of the form is a table with 10 rows. Each row contains a placeholder for a parent's name and address (e.g., "John Doe", "123 E. Monroe", "Phoenix, AZ 85004") and a "Signature:" line with a horizontal line for the signature.



Overview

“The American Dream Academy helped us plan our children’s future and increase their academic potential. During the classes, we shared personal ideas about how to motivate our children, and I am currently putting these into practice and seeing the results.”



ADA’s Responsibilities

ADA meets with the school staff to make a **brief presentation** about the ADA program and the *Realizing the American Dream Curriculum*.

ADA staff members are available to **meet with faculty** prior to the beginning date.

If requested, an ADA staff member will **distribute flyers** to parents on elementary school campuses one day prior to the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting.

Trained ADA recruiters in the ADA call center **contact parents** and invite them to attend the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting.

A trained facilitator, who is also an ADA program graduate with a college degree or equivalent experience, **leads the classes**.

The ADA program is **offered to parents once a week for 10 weeks**. The classes run for two hours. The average Spanish class size is 27 parents. The English class average is 12 parents. ADA does not recommend classes with fewer than five parents because part of the purpose of the program is to encourage parents to share ideas and learn from each other, something that is extremely difficult in very small groups.

For the Graduation Day, ADA **prepares a master program** for the school to print and hand out the day of the graduation.

ADA delivers all attendance records to the school, including original signatures.

The School’s Responsibilities

The principal’s enthusiasm and support of parent involvement is vital to the program.

The school provides **student enrollment rosters** in electronic format one month prior to the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting.

The school sends home an **ADA-provided flyer and invitation letter** to parents.

For each class, the school needs to **provide standard equipment**, such as a computer, projector and whiteboard.

The school provides **childcare** during all workshops (morning and evening).

During the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting, the principal **welcomes parents and introduces the ADA staff members** who provide an overview of the program.

During the 11th week, the principal **conducts a forum with parents**, answering questions the class has submitted in advance.

At the graduation ceremony, the principal **welcomes parents, introduces** the guest speakers, **awards** the graduation certificates to parents and **makes closing statements** along with ADA staff.

The Parent’s Responsibilities

Parents commit to the academic success of their children.

Depending on the schedule at your school or organization, parents **attend either morning or evening classes** weekly at their convenience.

Parents **keep their lesson materials in a binder** provided in Class 1. Printed lessons and handouts corresponding to the class curriculum are distributed weekly and can be added to the binder.

On Graduation Day, one parent **represents his or her group**.

Each graduating parent **receives a graduation certificate**. Perfect attendance is recognized.

Time Line



WEEK 1

ADA-provided flyer is sent from the school to parents two weeks prior to the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting.

WEEK 2

ADA-provided letter (schools are encouraged to customize) is sent from the school to parents one week prior to the Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting. ADA representatives at the ADA call center begin inviting parents in their “home” language.

WEEK 3

Welcome, Registration and Overview Meeting (first meeting of parents)
Welcome - Principal or School Rep.
History - ADA Staff
Parent Concerns - ADA Staff
Registration - ADA Staff

WEEK 4

Class 1: You Make the Difference!

WEEK 5

Class 2: Being a Partner With Your School

WEEK 6

Class 3: Academic Standards & Performance Requirements

WEEK 7

Class 4: Success Factors: Communication & Discipline

WEEK 8

Class 5: Success Factors: Self-Esteem & Motivation

WEEK 9

Class 6: Success Factors: Reading & Spending Time Together

WEEK 10

Class 7: Your Academic Success Plan

WEEK 11

Principal's Forum: The principal leads the discussion with parents. Parents are encouraged to bring their questions to the meeting.

WEEK 12

Graduation
School-Provided Childcare
Agenda: Welcome - Principal(s)
Guest Speakers
Children's Procession
Graduation Certificates
Closing - Principal & ADA Staff
Reception/Refreshments

83%
Graduation
Rate!

“ Before taking this class, I didn't feel prepared in anything having to do with my children's education. Today, I feel more confident ... I learned many concepts that I was unfamiliar with and clarified many doubts. I am very grateful to the *American Dream Academy*, which helped me to become a better parent. I've always dreamed about my three kids going to college, but today I see it as a fact. ”

Graduation!

Graduation Day

The ADA graduation rate for parents is a remarkable 83.62%. The Graduation Day celebrations are typically emotionally powerful for everyone involved. Parents have learned the vital lessons they need to help their children succeed, and they are hopeful for the future as they and their children, working with the school, set forth on a learning journey that promises to end with graduation and higher education. Many times the parents themselves have not graduated from any school in their lives and realize their children now have a better chance of graduating high school and higher education—to achieve the American Dream—with their help. Some principals have told us that seeing the classes at graduation—parents professing their dedication and hope for their children's success—is a highlight in their careers.



The ADA team will discuss Graduation Day with the principal and other school staff to determine exactly how the school wants to celebrate this special event. In general, the principal will speak to parents (ADA will provide an interpreter as necessary). In addition to the principal, an ADA staff member will address parents. Finally, a parent selected by his or her peers in each class will also address the audience. Prior to the presentation of the certificates, children who were invited to leave the venue prior to the start of the graduation will return to join their families and celebrate this special moment together. At most elementary school graduations, the ADA team will organize a children's parade where participating parents are invited to welcome their children with a standing ovation in celebration of their future academic success. During this event, parents will also receive their children's Future Student ID Cards from ASU.

Graduation Program

Three days prior to graduation, the school staff will receive an ADA-provided master copy of the graduation program to print and distribute. (This is the earliest delivery time because the program includes a list of graduates, many of whom have qualified for graduation by attending the class immediately prior to graduation.)

Graduation Certificates

Each parent graduate receives certificates (provided and printed by ADA), a *Program Completion Certificate* signed by the principal and a *Certificate of Conditional Admission* to ASU for each of their children. Parents with perfect attendance are also recognized by the speaker and with a Perfect Attendance Seal on the certificate.

Future ASU Student ID Cards

One of the highlights of the graduation ceremony is the presentation of *ASU Future Student IDs* to each child of graduating parents. These little cards have instilled great hopes in over 40,000 children so far whose parents have completed the program. This card serves as an incentive to children that they can fulfill their dream of a higher education.



Parents
at
**Your
School**
Can Realize the
American Dream

Your school can join the over 140 schools in more than 37 districts that have successfully completed the ADA program and motivated parents to help their children achieve the American dream. Some schools and districts have the ADA team return year after year as more and more parents in their schools need help! By helping parents, these schools are on their way to increasing test scores, having higher-achieving students, and boosting AYP in subgroups.

Participating Districts and Schools (Partial Listing)

District	School
Agua Fria Union High School District	Agua Fria High School
Alhambra Education Partnerships, Inc.	Alhambra College Preparatory
Alhambra Elementary District	Andalucia Middle School Cordova Primary Granada East School James W. Rice Primary Westwood Primary
Arizona Quest For Kids (non-profit organization)	AZQFK
Balsz Elementary District	Balsz School Brunson-Lee Elementary Crockett Elementary Orangedale Middle
Chicano Por la Causa (non-profit organization)	CPLC (Carl Hayden)
Cartwright School District	Barry Elementary Cartwright Elementary Charles W. Harris Elementary G. Frank Davidson Elementary Holiday Park Elementary John F. Long Elementary Manuel Peña Elementary Marc T. Atkinson Middle Palm Lane Elementary Starlight Park Elementary Sunset Elementary Tomahawk Elementary
Chandler Unified School District	Erie Elementary Frye Elementary Galveston Elementary Hartford Elementary Knox Elementary San Marcos Elementary
Creighton School District	Creighton Elementary Excelencia School Gateway School Larry C. Kennedy School Loma Linda Elementary Monte Vista Elementary Papago School Squaw Peak Traditional William T. Machan Elementary
CompuGirls (University program - ASU)	CompuGirls
Florence Crittenton	Crittenton Youth Academy
Fowler Elementary District	Santa Maria Middle School



District	School
Glendale Elementary School District	Bicentennial South Challenger Middle School Desert Spirit Elementary Don Mensendick School Glendale American Elementary Glenn F. Burton Elementary Harold W. Smith School Melvin E. Sine Elementary
Imagine Charter, Inc.	Imagine Elementary At Cortez Park Imagine Elementary At Camelback Imagine Elementary At Desert West
Isaac Elementary District	Alta Butler School Isaac Middle School J. B. Sutton Elementary Joseph Zito Elementary Mitchell Elementary Morris K. Udall Moya Elementary Pueblo Del Sol Middle Smith Middle
Maricopa Community College Charter Schools	Gateway Early College High School Teacher Prep Charter High School
Mesa Unified School District	Powell Junior High Mesa Junior High
Murphy Elementary District	Alfred Garcia Elementary Hamilton School Kuban Elementary Sullivan Elementary
Omega Academy Schools, Inc.	Omega Schools - McDowell Omega Schools - Northern
Pendergast Elementary School District	Pendergast Elementary School
Phoenix Collegiate Academy	Phoenix Collegiate Academy
Phoenix Elementary School District	August H. Shaw Jr. School Bethune Elementary Capitol Elementary Dunbar Elementary Emerson Elementary Garfield Elementary Kenilworth Elementary Lowell Elementary Magnet Traditional Mai Bartlett Heard Elementary Phoenix Prep. Academy Silvestre S. Herrera Thomas A. Edison Elementary Whittier Elementary

District	School
Phoenix Union High School District	Alhambra High School Betty Fairfax High School Bostrom High School Camelback High School Carl Hayden Community Central High School Cesar Chavez High School Cyber High School Franklin Police & Fire Maryvale High School Metro Tech High School North High School South Mountain High School Suns Diamondback Education Trevor G. Browne High School
Precision Academy Systems, Inc.	Precision Academy Charter
Riverside School District	Kings Ridge Academy Riverside Traditional School
Roosevelt Elementary District	Greenfield Elementary Valley View Elementary
Scottsdale Unified School District	Yavapai Elementary School
Tempe School District	Arredondo Elementary Carminati Elementary Evans Elementary Gilliland Middle Nevitt Elementary Scales Technology Academy
Tolleson Union High School District	La Joya Community High School Tolleson High School Westview High School
University Preparatory Academy (ASU Charter)	University Public School
Washington Elementary School District	Mountain View School Palo Verde Middle Roadrunner Elementary Royal Palm Middle
Yavapai Nation	Yavapai Nation - Ft. McDowell
Wilson School District	Wilson School

ADA Program Costs

The ADA team is committed to helping you, your school and your parents. We will go over the complete process with you and discuss costs. Arizona State University (ASU) subsidizes the program, so your school or district pays only a fraction of the costs. We have actively worked with every school that has ever asked about the program to find the funding to implement the program at their school. Some schools have also asked utility companies and formed other public-private partnerships to help. *No school has ever not done the program due to lack of funds.*

Get more information on ADA... with no obligation!

Successful implementation is a team effort between ADA personnel and school administration, faculty and staff. Call us now at (602) 496-1020 or email us at cdcr-info@asu.edu.

*ADA can begin helping your
school or district today!*





“Whether construed as home-based behaviors, school-based activities or parent-teacher communication, parental involvement has been positively linked to indicators of student achievement, including teacher ratings of student competence, student grades, and achievement test scores. Involvement has also been associated with other indicators of school success, including lower rates of retention in grade, lower drop-out rates, higher on-time high school graduation rates, and higher rates of participation in advanced courses.”

K.V. Hoover-Dempsey, J.M.T. Walker, H.M. Sandler,
D.R. Whetsel, C.L. Green, A.S. Wilkins & K.E. Clossen,
“Why do parents become involved? Research findings and
implications.” *Elementary School Journal*.





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