

# How to Get Parents on Your Side<sup>®</sup>

GRADES K–12

GRADUATE CREDIT: 3 SEMESTER HOURS

Educators are better able to improve students' achievement by recruiting parents to support efforts in the classroom. Through this course, educators learn how to encourage parents to take an active role in their children's education by creating guidelines for collaboration. Education professionals assess their parent involvement needs, and they explore ways to develop more effective relationships. Educators also examine how to work with parents of diverse cultures and parents of children with special needs.

*This course is designed for K–12 classroom teachers, lead teachers, curriculum coordinators, special education teachers, reading specialists, and subject teachers.*

## COURSE TOPICS

- Understanding the importance of parental involvement
- Establishing a mindset toward parental involvement
- Using a proactive approach to parental involvement
- Maintaining positive communication
- Embracing diversity
- Conducting effective parent conferences
- Supporting parents of students with special needs
- Supporting homework efforts
- Involving parents in problem-solving
- Dealing with difficult situations

## COURSE OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, educators will:

- Practice working with parents in a positive and cooperative manner.
- Analyze attributes of teachers who are successful with parents.
- Determine approaches for overcoming roadblocks to dealing with parents.
- Analyze effective communication skills demonstrated in parent-teacher interactions.
- Discuss the importance of positive early communication with parents.
- Develop a plan for ongoing positive communication with parents.
- Analyze personal attitudes, beliefs, and expectations related to race, socioeconomic class, language, and gender, and examine how these beliefs affect relationships with the students and families in their classrooms.
- Expand their repertoire of communication skills to engage with parents.
- Plan for a successful parent conference.
- Determine effective approaches for collaborating with parents of students with special needs.
- Propose strategies for parents to use to solve common problems related to homework and plan for a conference to communicate such strategies.
- Develop criteria for determining when to contact parents regarding a problem and prepare a plan for conducting such a call.
- Develop strategies for contacting hard-to-reach parents.
- Analyze communication techniques that are most effective when working with parents who are critical, hostile, uncooperative, or nonresponsive and plan a conference with such a parent.

### METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

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This course provides numerous opportunities to apply research-based concepts and theory to practical teaching situations. Assessment is conducted in the following ways:

- **Activities** are short assessments that help educators explore concepts and make connections between the content and their teaching practice. Some activities are ungraded but serve to prepare educators for other graded assignments. Any ungraded activities are clearly marked as such.
- **Study Team Discussions (print & DVD) or Dialogue Summaries (online)** allow educators to share ideas about the course content with other teachers, then ask them to analyze and summarize the discussion and then describe how their understanding of the topic has been enhanced or expanded.
- **Applications** assist educators in applying the theories, concepts, and strategies to their teaching practice.
- **Quizzes** provide educators with instant feedback (online only) on their understanding of the course material. There are three quizzes, each reviewing several sections of content.
- The **Final Reflection** requires educators to synthesize the content and reflect on their key learnings throughout the course.

### COURSE MATERIALS AND FORMAT

Course texts, websites, and journal articles help facilitate learning and transfer theory into practice. Video programs feature interviews with nationally recognized education experts. Classroom scenes provide a view into the classrooms of master teachers who demonstrate the strategies taught in the course. This course is offered in two distance-learning formats: print & DVD and online. Educators select one format when they enroll.

#### PRINT & DVD FORMAT

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Educators in the print & DVD version of the course receive printed materials to facilitate their learning. This version of the course requires educators to form a study team. The educator must have at least one study partner or peer coach, preferably another educator, to complete activities, engage in discussion, and seek feedback. It is not necessary that the study partner be enrolled in the course. Educators enrolled in the print & DVD version should have Internet access in order to connect with the many websites that are offered as learning resources. Assignments are submitted via email. The print & DVD course includes:

- The print study guide:
  - *How to Get Parents on Your Side*®
- The DVD:
  - Laureate Education, Inc. (Executive Producer). (2009). *How to get parents on your side*. Baltimore: Executive Producer.
- The course textbook(s):
  - Canter, L., & Canter, M. (2001). *Parents on your side: A teacher's guide to creating positive relationships with parents* (2nd ed.). Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree.
- The other required readings

#### ONLINE FORMAT

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Educators in the online version of the course access the course content via an online classroom. Educators are required to participate in virtual discussions with fellow educators via a discussion board. The course textbook is shipped to educators, but the video programs and other resources are available within the online classroom. Assignments are submitted through the online classroom. The online course includes:

- Access to the online classroom for:
  - *How to Get Parents on Your Side*®
- Access to the video programs in the online classroom as well as a back-up DVD:
  - Laureate Education, Inc. (Executive Producer). (2009). *How to get parents on your side*. Baltimore: Executive Producer.
- The course textbook(s):
  - Canter, L., & Canter, M. (2001). *Parents on your side: A teacher's guide to creating positive relationships with parents* (2nd ed.). Bloomington, IN: Solution Tree.
- Access to the other required readings

### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE COURSE FORMAT:

- Operating system for PC: Windows® XP, Windows Vista®, or Windows® 7
- Operating system for Mac®: OS X or higher
- Processor: 1 GHz, 32/64 bit or higher
- Memory: Minimum 512 MB of RAM; 1 GB recommended
- Browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer® 6.0 or higher; Firefox® 3.6 (also for Mac®: Apple® Safari® 4 or higher)
- Internet connection: Broadband (DSL, cable modem, or similar) required
- Software: Microsoft Word®, Adobe® Flash® Player 7 or higher (free), Adobe® Acrobat® Reader® version 8 or higher (free)
- Monitor resolution: 1280 x 800 pixels or higher

**Note:** If you are using a Macintosh®, please be sure to download Mozilla® Firefox® 3.6. It's free, and the download should take only a few minutes at [www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org).

#### Trademark Information

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- Mozilla and Firefox are registered trademarks of the Mozilla Foundation.
- Adobe, Flash, and Acrobat Reader are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and/or other countries.

## EDUCATION EXPERTS

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### Lee Canter, M.S.W.

Lee Canter is a nationally recognized expert in the fields of parenting and behavior management. His programs have helped more than 1 million educators create more harmonious classroom and school environments where teachers can teach and students can achieve greater success. Canter is the author of numerous books, including *The High Performing Teacher*, *Classroom Management for Academic Success*, and *Succeeding with Difficult Students*.

### Sonia Nieto, Ed.D.

Dr. Sonia Nieto is professor emerita of language, literacy, and culture in the School of Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She received her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) from the University of Massachusetts, with specializations in curriculum studies and multicultural and bilingual education. Her book *Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education* is used widely in multicultural education and professional development courses. Her other books include *The Light in Their Eyes: Creating Multicultural Learning Communities* and *What Keeps Teachers Going?*



**ABOUT CANTER**

Canter, a subsidiary of Laureate Education, Inc., is committed to serving the educational community with high-quality, graduate-level courses that blend research-based theory with practical strategies. Canter began with one groundbreaking guide on managing behavior in the classroom and, more than 35 years later, has helped more than 300,000 educators address the most critical issues in education while advancing their careers.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about Canter graduate-level courses, visit [www.Canter.net](http://www.Canter.net) or call 1-800-669-9011.

**ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP**

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Canter offers its courses in partnership with Walden University, allowing you to benefit from Canter’s quality curriculum in a self-paced format, while earning graduate credit from a leading accredited university.\* The course curriculum is developed and designed by Canter in collaboration with national education experts, while graduate credit is granted through Walden University, which assesses student work. Credit may be applicable for certification renewal and/or salary advancement.<sup>†</sup> Course credit may be transferable with prior approval from the university providing your advanced degree or planned program.

**Walden University**

The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University is a **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)**–accredited college dedicated to enhancing educator effectiveness. As a recognized standard of excellence in professional education for the preparation of teachers, administrators, and other pre-K–12 school professionals, NCATE accreditation ensures the college has met rigorous national standards set by the profession and members of the public.

The college, named for the former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, was identified by *U.S. News & World Report* as having the largest online graduate program in education by enrollment (May 2010). Walden students were awarded the fourth most TEACH Grants to students nationwide in 2010–2011, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The choice of more than 53,000 students and alumni, including more than 80 state teachers of the year, the college is also a proud partner of the National Education Association (NEA) Academy and a year-round sponsor of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org). Canter and Walden University are both subsidiaries of Laureate Education, Inc.

\*Prospective Washington state students are advised to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at 1-360-725-6275 or [prof.educ@k12.wa.us](mailto:prof.educ@k12.wa.us) to determine whether Walden’s programs in the field of education are approved for teacher certification or endorsements in Washington state. Additionally, teachers are advised to contact their individual school district as to whether this program may qualify for salary advancement.

<sup>†</sup>It is each student’s responsibility to check with his or her state/district and evaluate and understand any requirements related to the use of individual courses for any purpose.