



WASHINGTON STATE

# Office of the Education Ombudsman

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

## Professional Development Classes for Schools and School District

**Clock hours available**

The Office of the Education Ombudsman (OEO), an agency within the Governor's Office, offers on-site classes for superintendents, principals, teachers and other school staff. These interactive classes are specially designed to provide educators and school staff with practical tools and strategies that can be used to partner with families and achieve better outcomes for students.

Classes are taught by Education Ombudsmen who have many years of experience as teachers, counselors, administrators, and attorneys in Washington public schools. Education Ombudsmen work daily with parents, educators and school administrators around the state to resolve conflict and problems affecting student achievement. For information about OEO visit our website: [www.waparentslearn.org](http://www.waparentslearn.org) or call 1-866-297-2597.

### Topics

#### **Forming Essential Partnerships – Involving Families for Student Success - 3 hours.**

Research shows that successful school-family partnerships are good predictors of student academic success. This session will explore the diverse and valuable perspectives families bring to the school setting, debunk parent involvement myths, and identify the benefits of creating school environments that intentionally create partnerships. Participants will learn about successful models, tried and true practices, and strategies and structures that are currently used in public schools around the state and the nation.

#### **Difficult Conversations - Preventing and Resolving Conflict with Families – 4 hours.**

Conflict between families and school staff can negatively impact student learning, staff morale, and hamper the involvement of families in schools. Learn to effectively and professionally communicate with parents, even in difficult circumstances, and how to actively listen and problem-solve. Find out how what escalates conflict, how to de-escalate it, and what you can do to maintain good relationships and cultivate partnerships with parents. This class involves role-plays and practice dialog.

#### **Explaining the Public Education System to Parents – 4 hours.**

Many parents are missing basic information about the Washington public education system that can help them become better partners in education. This session covers information that educators and school staff can use to inform parents. Participants will learn how to effectively communicate with parents, explain how school districts are structured, explain student rights, school rules, district, state and federal policies, and how they affect school practices.

#### **Involving Families of ELL Students in Public Schools – 3 hours or 6 hours.**

Immigrant and refugee families face great challenges to become involved in their children's education. They have different perspectives and needs that are not always understood and addressed in public schools.

Participants in this class will:

- Learn how ELL parents view our education system and what they say schools should do.
- Raise their cultural competence level
- Learn how to work effectively with interpreters and translators,
- Develop practical and successful involvement activities they can use immediately.

**Cost:** \$600 per 3-hour class for up to 40 participants

\$750 per 4 hour class for up to 40 participants

\$1,100 for 6-7 hours class, combination of topics for up to 40 participants (2-3 trainers)

Cost includes materials and preparation time. There are extra costs for trainer(s) travel and lodging outside the greater Puget Sound area. **Call us at 1-866-297-2597 to schedule classes for your school/school district.**