



THE CONCILIO

## The PASE Program

Parents Advocating for Student Excellence

### What is PASE?

The Concilio's Parents Advocating for Student Excellence (PASE) program teaches parents in at-risk neighborhoods how to positively impact their child's education through active engagement and support of their learning. Many of the participating parents never graduated from high school themselves and are immigrants facing cultural/language barriers. As a part of the 9-week PASE curriculum, they:

Since 2002, over **17,000 parents** have graduated from the PASE program, creating an impact for **30,000 students**.

- ✓ Learn to navigate and engage with the educational system
- ✓ Identify academic challenges their children may face
- ✓ Learn how to effectively communicate with teachers and administrators
- ✓ Create a home environment that supports learning
- ✓ Set high academic expectations, including goals for higher education

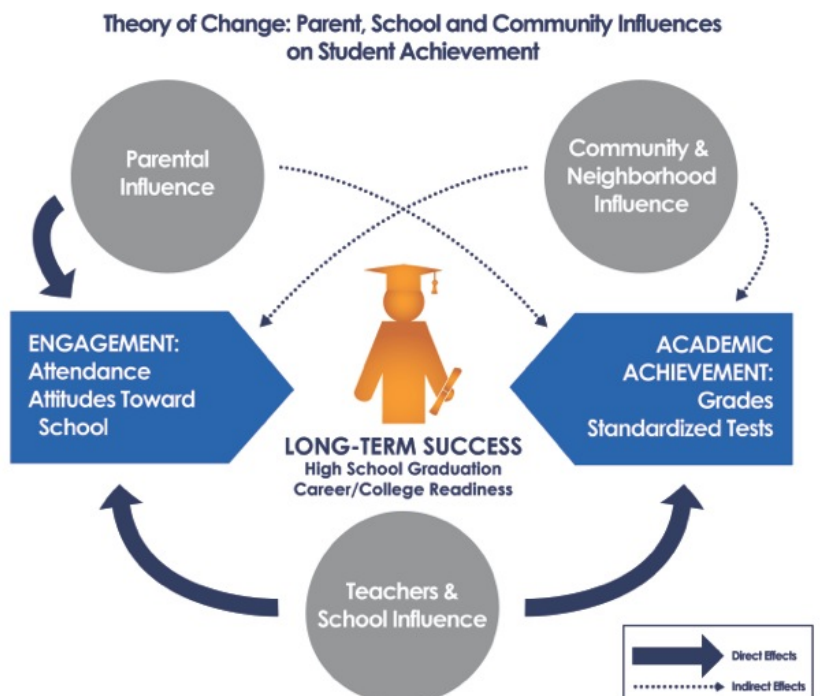
### Why Parent Engagement?

Parents care about educational excellence, but barriers like low socio-economic status, limited education and different cultural norms can make it difficult to take an active role. These challenges can contribute significantly to education and achievement gaps for low-income students.

PASE tackles these barriers head-on by equipping parents with the tools they need to bridge this divide. Families make positive behavioral changes, such as getting to school more regularly, being on time, using good homework habits and having better behavior in the classroom.

While there is no evidence PASE directly impacts student grades and test scores, it does clearly improve critical pre-cursors to academic achievement. School attendance, regularly completing homework and other engagement behaviors are critical pieces of the puzzle. By first engaging parents and students, we set the stage for collective community efforts to impact children's education and life outcomes.

### Program Evaluation: Engaged



## Parents, Engaged Students

An evaluation of the PASE program by the Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE) at SMU's Simmons School of Education found the PASE program is positively impacting engagement behaviors, which are research-based indicators of future academic success, high school graduation and college attendance. (Outcomes were examined in both the intervention year (2012-2013) and the post-intervention year (2013-14).)

### Increased pro-education activities among parents

As a result of PASE participation, parents show statistically significant increases in:

- ✓ Pro-education activities in the home, including fostering reading and consistent homework behaviors
- ✓ Parent communications with school staff
- ✓ Parent knowledge of school tests
- ✓ Belief in ability to help their children make better grades
- ✓ Parent discussions with their child of long-term career and academic goals

### Better attendance and fewer tardies

The SMU evaluation found that just 13 hours of intervention with parents through the PASE program – as opposed to a direct intervention with students – resulted in meaningful, statistically significant improvements in student attendance and on-time arrivals.

Though presence in school alone does not guarantee high academic achievement, it does provide students with the best possible opportunity to learn. Numerous research studies have found correlations between attendance and academic achievement.

### Better classroom engagement

Students with parents in PASE generally perform better on a variety of academic indicators than comparison students, according to teacher reports. According to their teachers,

- ✓ 84% were average, above-average, or excellent in turning in homework on time
- ✓ 87% had average, above-average, or excellent quality homework
- ✓ 91% were average or above in school behaviors and attitudes, and motivation

## Other Important Results

In addition to the evaluation with SMU, The Concilio has tracked longer-term outcomes for students whose parents graduated from PASE. [Data from a 2010 survey shows that](#) PASE students are:

- ✓ **More likely to graduate from high school.** 90.2% of PASE students graduate compared to 83% of Dallas County students overall.

- ✓ **More likely to continue with post-secondary education.** 78% of PASE students continue with higher education compared to 66% of Dallas County students overall.