

SMI's **Parent Academy** Approach:

The community is the campus.

“Parent involvement” is a big topic in schools – and a huge challenge for many of them. Educators need parents involved in meaningful ways as **active, confident partners** in their children’s education.

SMI’s response was to develop a unique community-wide Parent Academy approach that engages schools, community organizations and families in a powerful partnership designed to build parent know-how and link parents to a broad network of community resources that can help them realize their own personal and professional goals.

What Makes SMI’s Approach Special

- We take the vast array of resources that act independently in most communities and use a proven partnership approach to connect those resources in a locally owned, collaboratively driven Academy that supports parents and families and makes the most of expertise across the community.
- We bring learning opportunities to where people live, work and play, making sure that support services, such as childcare, transportation, and translation, are available and in place.
- We help people move beyond “organizational turf” and discover their mutual self-interest.
- We create leadership and operational structures that involve parents, school leaders, businesses, and community and faith based organizations.
- We get results. Parents and partners report increases in participation, skill building and opportunity.

Contact us at **617.227.2100** for more information about launching a **Collaborative Parent Academy** in your community.



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“SMI’s approach was unique. They helped us see the possibilities we have as a city and bring them to life.”

In Springfield we offered 40 courses first semester. Not only were they free to our parents, they also did not cost us (the school system) anything to provide! That was a direct result of School & Main Institute and their process of engaging our partners and related resources to meet the needs we have as a district.

Pat Spradley
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Community Engagement
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