

# 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.

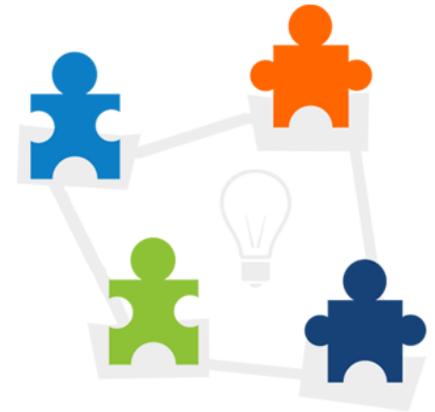
## What Makes SMI’s Approach Special

- 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  
Chief of Parent and  
Community Engagement  
Springfield Public Schools  
Springfield, Massachusetts