

# TEACHING FOR CHANGE

Building Social Justice Starting in the Classroom



## Tellin' Stories Family Partners Series

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With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Teaching for Change is launching a new and unprecedented training series for D.C.-area elementary schools to develop meaningful family engagement strategies for their school communities. Schools selected to participate in the Tellin' Stories Family Partners Series will send teams comprised of a parent coordinator, parents, teachers or support staffs, and (where desired) community partners to participate in trainings in **August, October, November, January, March, and May**.

The training series will be based on Tellin' Stories' unique, research-based approach that fosters effective partnerships between empowered families, their communities, and schools. The ultimate goal is improving outcomes for all children.

### What is the Tellin' Stories Family Partners Series?

Schools must send teams of parents and staff that may include: parent coordinators, Title 1 specialists, community partners, teacher aides, teachers or support staff, and administrators. The first part of each workshop will be dedicated to professional development specifically for staff members, while parents attend their own leadership development training. The second part of each workshop will bring parents and staff back together into their school teams to develop plans and strategies specific to their school communities. The series will include ongoing coaching and site visits to other schools.

The exact training dates will be determined once the participating schools are finalized. Trainings will be on a weekday for **4 hours (from 10am to 2pm)** and will be held in: **August, October, November, January, March, and May**.

Visit [www.TeachingforChange.org](http://www.TeachingforChange.org) for more details.

### How Can My School Benefit From Participating?

“I feel more confident because of the Tellin' Stories meetings.” — **Parent**

“Having a relationship with parents is really important. Our school is stronger for that relationship. When we do things, we're not doing something to someone—we're working together to build. We're not fixing parents, we're learning with them.” — **Principal**

“Parents are WAY more involved, comfortable, and active here than before Teaching for Change started working with us. And way more so than I've seen at other schools.” — **Teacher**

“Using the Tellin' Stories approach did not just increase the numbers of parents involved – it literally changed the face of who we saw coming in the door and advocating for their children.”  
— **Principal**

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## What Are the Requirements for My School to be Eligible?

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Schools that meet the following criteria may apply to participate in the Tellin' Stories Family Partners Series:

- Have an early childhood program (Head Start, preschool, or pre-Kindergarten)
- Qualify for Title I status and/or serve families that are low-income, immigrant, or racial and ethnic minorities
- Are located in the DC metro area
- Are a public or a public charter school
- Have a Parent Coordinator/Parent Liaison on staff

*Visit [www.TeachingforChange.org](http://www.TeachingforChange.org) for the complete list of eligibility criteria and participation requirements.*

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## What Does This Series Require of Principals?

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Principals must commit to creating a welcoming school environment for parents and agree to:

- Interview with Teaching for Change staff as part of the selection process.
- Participate in a spring 2014 orientation in June and fall 2014 meeting in August
- Provide:
  - a dedicated space to be used as a parent center
  - time on the school calendar for parent engagement activities
  - a budget for basic supplies and refreshments for parent meetings
  - interpretation support for parent meetings
- Meet monthly with a representative(s) of their school's Family Partners Team
- Hold open monthly meetings with parents
- Support the recommendations of their school's Family Partners Team

*Visit [www.TeachingforChange.org](http://www.TeachingforChange.org) for the complete list of principal requirements.*

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## How Can My School Apply?

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**Friday, May 23** is the deadline to apply. Applications are available on the Teaching for Change website and may be submitted online or as a paper copy.

**Questions?** Email Erika Landberg at [elandberg@teachingforchange.org](mailto:elandberg@teachingforchange.org) for more information or call 202-588-7204 x31