Parent leadership is the capacity for parents to interact, navigate and lead within civic society, with purpose and positive gains for children.

*Parent leadership initiatives strive to:

1. Help parents become the leaders they would like to be for children;
2. Expand the capacity of parents as change agents for children;
3. Explore, with parents, the tenets of democracy and effective methods for them to exercise their rights and meet their responsibilities within the civic process;
4. Develop communities of parents that will support one another in both their skills development and successful parent action for children;
5. Develop communities of parents within child-focused institutions such as early care and education, schools, and Title V programs;
6. Facilitate parents' capacity to offer input into community efforts on the school, neighborhood, regional and state level;
7. Facilitate systems change for parental involvement with increased utilization of parents in policy and process decisions.

Investing time and energy now in developing strong parent leaders will have a profound and lasting impact on the health and vitality of our communities.

*adapted from the CT Commission on Children*