

Milwaukee Public Schools Get Help With Parental Involvement

Milwaukee Public Schools are getting assistance in boosting parent engagement this year. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's VISTA project got started with a new year of volunteers working in Milwaukee schools in late August. In addition, **Joyce Epstein**, Director of the [Center on School, Family and Community Partnerships](#) at Johns Hopkins University, trained MPS cluster representatives, Parents Plus and VISTAs on how to set up Action Teams at schools throughout the district.



The Action Teams are part of the MPS plan for improvement under No Child Left Behind. The district is divided into nine clusters. Representatives from each cluster will train individual schools on how to set up Action Teams, which bring together parents, teachers and staff to make and implement plans for school improvement. Parents Plus and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will provide technical assistance on this process.



Milwaukee VISTA volunteers are housed at Parents Plus, and spend the school year working to increase parental engagement by starting Action Teams of parents and staff, and helping schools to get parents involved. The VISTAs have been working with schools around the state since 1997.

This year Cara Slingerland is working with [Urban Day Head Start](#) and [School for Urban Planning and Architecture](#). Cara just completed an eight week term as a Summer VISTA volunteer, also working with Urban Day.

Sarah Glassman is working with [Maple Tree Elementary School](#). Maple Tree is a former partner of Parents Plus and we welcome their return. Sarah grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Earlham College in Indiana.

Angela Rumsey recently graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a degree in Anthropology and International Studies. Hannah Schulz is working with [Indian Community School](#). She is from Janesville and recently graduated from UW Madison.

Robyn Krimke is continuing her work with [US Grant Elementary School](#). This is her second year working with the school to increase parental and community involvement.