

**Baltimore County Public Schools**  
**National African American Parent**  
**Involvement Day**

**NAAPID**

**February 9, 2009**



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# Information Sheet

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## **WHAT IS NAAPID?**

NAAPID is a national call to action to get parents, particularly those of children of African American descent, more involved in their educational lives. It is expected that this national observation will open up dialogue among teachers, parents, and students, which will lead to a more conducive learning environment for African American students from kindergarten through college.

## **WHY NAAPID?**

NAAPID's call to action is designed to address the serious achievement gap facing African American students, who continue to lag behind other ethnic and minority groups. With the many failures of African American students in our schools, colleges and universities, something must be done to retain and support them through to successful graduation. Research also shows that the more that parents are involved in the educational lives of their children, the greater their academic success. Therefore, NAAPID is making a concerted effort to get more parents involved in this win/win endeavor that will only be of benefit to all stakeholders.

## **WHEN IS NAAPID?**

The second Monday in February annually throughout the nation -- during Black History Month. The impact of this national action day will result in ongoing benefits, throughout the school year, toward a goal of educational excellence for African American students.

## **WHERE IS NAAPID?**

The NAAPID call to action will take place in local school districts, at neighborhood schools, and at colleges and universities throughout the nation.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact the NAAPID national office at 800. 351.4097, or send an e-mail message to: [info@naapid.org](mailto:info@naapid.org) or to Joseph Dulin, Founder, at [jdulin@naapid.org](mailto:jdulin@naapid.org). Be sure to include your name, title, organization, address, phone, fax, and e-mail address along with any request for information. You may also write NAAPID at P.O. Box 2043, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2043. Thank you.

# Parents/Guardians

In preparation for *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all parents/guardians to do the following:

- **Pre-Conference with Your Children (take notes)**
  - Ask children about what they are doing in school.
  - Ask children for their school schedules.
  - Ask children for grades of each subject for which they are currently enrolled.
  - Ask children about their citizenship in each class.
  - Ask children what they like best and least about each class.
  - Ask children about their goals and objectives, and how parents and the school can assist them in meeting their goals and objectives.
  
- **Conference**
  - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* on the second Monday in February.
  - Upon arriving at the school, sign in at the office.
    - Ask each teacher about the academic and citizenship status of your child.
    - Refer to your notes from the preconference regarding your child's report on that particular class and ask the teacher any relevant questions.
    - Proceed with dialogue on the differences and similarities between the child's report and the teacher's report.
  - Engage in problem solving to reconcile differences to improve student performance.
  - Exchange phone numbers (between teachers and parents).
  - Develop a plan for future contacts during the school year.
  - Before leaving the school, obtain handouts on upcoming activities and schedules of all future parent conferences.
  - End each parent/child and teacher conference on a positive and respectful note.
  
- **Post Conference**
  - Maintain open communication with child and teacher throughout the school year.
  - Supervise and review your child(ren)'s homework.
  - Review school rules and regulations; go over school handbook and review items that are appropriate for successful schooling.
  - Place all school information and future dates of parent conferences and other school activities in an easily accessible location.
  - Maintain an updated list of your child(ren)'s athletic or extracurricular activities coaches/teachers.
  - Enforce age appropriate curfews that will allow proper rest, time for study, organization, and preparation for a successful school day.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENTS' PLEDGE

to the  
EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to take my child to school on the  
(Your Name) second Monday in February annually.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to visit my child in school on a regular basis.  
(Your Name)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to recommit myself to my child's education.  
(Your Name)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to involve myself as much as possible  
(Your Name) in my child's school activities.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to provide a proper study environment  
(Your Name) for my child in my home.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to supervise and review my child's homework  
(Your Name) each night.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to speak to my child's teachers regularly about  
(Your Name) his/her academic and social performance.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to teach my child the value of an education.  
(Your Name)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to spend quality time with my child.  
(Your Name)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to be a positive role model for my child.  
(Your Name)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to work hard to keep my child healthy and drug  
(Your Name) free.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to work cooperatively with my school and  
(Your Name) community toward educational excellence for all children.

**This is my pledge --- This is my commitment** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Name)

# Students

In preparation for the "*Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School*" Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all students to do the following:

- Encourage your parents/guardians to participate in NAAPID.
- Participate in open and honest discussions with your parents/guardians regarding school.
- Discuss with your parents or guardians:
  - Your daily school routine.
  - Your grades and performance in each subject for which you are enrolled.
  - Your citizenship in each class.
  - What you like best and least about each class.
  - Your goals and objectives.
  - How parents/guardians and teachers can assist you in achieving these goals and objectives.
- Adhere to your family's household rules and regulations:
  - Curfew.
  - Observe quiet time for study.
  - Find appropriate place in home to study.
  - Seek help when needed.
  - Carry out household chores and responsibilities.
- Get a clear understanding of homework and instructions from teachers.
- Bring appropriate books and supplies to school and home.
- Maintain open and honest communications with parents/guardians and teachers.
- Model appropriate behavior.

# Teachers

In preparation for "Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School" Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all teachers to do the following:

- Support NAAPID.
- Maintain higher expectations of all students.
- Make adequate preparation for the parent/teacher/student conferences.
- Use dialogue that is open, honest, and parent friendly.
- Be prepared to share information about the child's status, progress, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Have child's current attendance records and grades available to share with parents/guardians.
- Be prepared to show samples of the student's work.
- Make the climate and the culture of your school and classroom "parent friendly."
- Exchange phone numbers with parents and let them know the best times to contact you; find out the best times to contact them.
- Encourage parents to maintain open communication, dialogue, and frequent visits.
- Take responsibility for ensuring that the conference ends on a positive note.

**Teacher's Pledge to Educational  
Excellence for African American Students**

**Note: Using the "save as" feature of your Web browser, it is quite easy to copy this page's text to your computer's hard drive where it can be picked up and formatted in any word processor -- perhaps to fit your own school's stationery.**

As I take my teaching responsibilities seriously, and dedicate myself to the task of effectively educating **all children**, I here and now commit myself to a pledge of Educational Excellence for African American Students.

Therefore, as a teacher in the educational system of this country, I pledge to do the following:

1. I will set and maintain for myself the highest possible level of educational competence.
2. I will set and maintain for myself and promote among my colleagues the highest possible level of **ethnic competence**. In so doing, I will seek to understand the uniqueness that African American students bring to the classroom in terms of their history, coping strategies, values, traditions, and learning styles.
3. I will make my classroom student and parent friendly.
4. I will reach out to the parents of children in my class and bridge the gap between home and school, making the school environment a safe and supportive environment for students and their parents.
5. I will periodically review and modify my teaching approach, curricula, and teaching style to make certain they meet the specific needs of African American students.
6. I will personally advocate for the best interest and well being of my students.
7. I will hold high expectations for my students.
8. I will strive to promote high self-esteem and a belief in the personal competence in my students.
9. I will maintain ongoing personal contact with the parents/guardians of my students via telephone calls and/or personal visits in the students' homes or at school.
10. I will support NAAPID and its ongoing commitment to educational excellence for African American students.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, make this pledge after careful consideration of my role and responsibility as a teacher; and my commitment to join hands with NAAPID in its efforts to make this society a safe place for all where hopes and dreams can be nourished into rewarding realities.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School district: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tutors

In preparation for "*Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School*" Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all tutors to do the following:

- Make a commitment on the number of students and the amount of time you are available to tutor.
- Tutor students in the area of your competence.
- Maintain an open and honest relationship with each student -- one that is supportive of their family and school.
- Maintain frequent communication with the students' parents/guardians regarding the tutorial process.
- Maintain a trusting and professional relationship with student and family.
- Follow through with your commitment to the student.
- Confer with parents/guardians on where and when tutorial services will take place.

# Mentors

In preparation for "*Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School*" Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all mentors to do the following:

- Support NAAPID.
- Make a commitment on the number of students and the amount of time you are available to mentor.
- Provide leadership and positive role modeling for students.
- Maintain an open and honest relationship -- one that is supportive of the family and school.
- Maintain frequent communication with the student's parents or guardians regarding the mentoring process.
- Maintain a trusting and professional relationship with students and families.
- Follow through with your commitment to the students.
- Confer with parents/guardians on where and when mentoring activities will take place.

# School Boards

In preparation for *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all school boards and their members to do the following:

- Support NAAPID annually on the second Monday in February.
- Declare a resolution in support of NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.
- Encourage and support local administrators, teachers, and support staff by assisting them in making this a positive experience for parents and students.
- Allow time on the school board agenda for a follow-up report on the NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.

## Building Principals and School Administrators

The National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) Committee, in preparation for *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day, is calling upon all building principals and local school administrators to do the following:

- Form a committee to assist in planning for NAAPID.
- Set up a communication system to answer questions and provide information about NAAPID.
- Encourage teachers' participation in NAAPID through staff meetings, school newsletters, etc.
- Inform the PTO and advisory groups regarding the school's plans for NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.
- Be available to confer with parents about *"Take Your Child to School Day/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.
- Send letters of appreciation to all parents who participated in NAAPID.
- Arrange for a follow-up meeting with NAAPID participants.
- Provide feedback to the school community following the events of *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.

# Clergy

In preparation for *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all clergy in the area to do the following:

- Encourage parents with school-age children in your congregation to participate in NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* on the second Monday in February annually.
- Encourage employers and business leaders in the community to provide release time from work, with pay, to parents and/or guardians who participate in NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School."*
- Call for volunteers in your congregation to transport those parents who are in need of transportation to their children's schools.
- Provide child care services to parents of your congregation participating in the NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.
- Include in your church bulletins, announcements, and sermons, information and support for the NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day.
- Provide ongoing dialogue and support for the NAAPID program throughout the school year.

# Businesses

In preparation for *"Take Your Child to School/Visit your Child in School"* Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all businesses to do the following:

- Encourage all employees to support NAAPID.
- Provide release time, with pay, for those employees involved in NAAPID.
- Adopt a school and support the NAAPID agenda.
- Provide resources to educational institutions, whenever possible.
- When possible, provide opportunities for "shadowing," mentoring, internships, and employment for eligible students.

# Organizations and Communities

In preparation for *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all organizations and communities to do the following:

- Support NAAPID and its *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School"* Day on the second Monday in February.
- Encourage all parents/guardians with school-age children to participate in NAAPID.
- Provide transportation for parents/guardians participating in NAAPID - *"Take Your Child to School/Visit Your Child in School."*
- Provide child care services for participating families.
- Collaborate with schools and families to promote educational excellence.
- Collaborate with the citizenry to promote a safe school/community environment.
- Support **Educational Excellence** through your tax dollars.

## Public Officials and Politicians

In preparation for "Take Your Child to School/Visit You Child in School" Day, the National African American Parent Involvement Day Committee is calling upon all public officials and politicians to do the following:

- Support NAAPID annually on the second Monday in February.
- Support legislation to help schools improve the quality of education for all students.
- Provide the necessary tax dollars to support our nation's schools.
- Visit schools to support their educational goals.
- Support equal educational opportunities for all.
- Encourage constituents to support the NAAPID agenda.

# Introduction

Parents have significant influence on their children's success in school. Parents are their child's first teachers. Their attitudes and values are important in shaping not only their relationship with their child, but their children's relationship with the school. When parents are involved with their children and involved with the school, their children experience greater academic success. This is true from the preschool years through high school.

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## Purpose

- Create a network between parents and educators to become more involved in their children's education.
  - Demonstrate to parents and educators that when they are actively involved in their children's education, the result is improved grades, test scores, and attendance, etc.
  - Encourage teachers to develop an effective attitude toward parental involvement.
  - Recognize and move past the roadblocks that have stood in the way of parent and teacher communication.
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## Why is NAAPID important?

When parents are actively involved in their children's education, we see the following:

- The incidence of behavioral problems decrease.
  - Improved academic performance.
  - Tests improve.
  - Gang and juvenile delinquency decrease.
  - Improved school attendance.
  - Increased graduation rates.
  - Parents who are more involved don't mind paying taxes.
  - Residents with a greater stake in the community stay longer.
  - Better educated residents attract higher paying businesses and increased tax revenue.
  - Parents have significant influence on their child's success in school.
  - Parents are their child's first teachers.
  - Parents are important in shaping not only the attitudes and values of their children, but their relationship with the school.
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## When Planning NAAPID

Things to do when planning NAAPID:

- Be sure you are totally committed to NAAPID.
- Parents, teachers, and other interested persons should be involved in the planning.
- Be prepared to be innovative and flexible.
- Use strong personal outreach.

- Contact parents, superintendents, building principals, and others.
  - Fliers.
  - Letters.
  - Face-to-face contact.
  - Start the morning of NAAPID with a fun social event.
  - Be informal; this is less intimidating to parents.
  - Prepare teaching and school staff with NAAPID in-service workshops.
  - Plan transportation for parents to and from the school.
  - Plan on-site child care.
  - Devote the entire day to NAAPID.
  - Don't give up if response is not overwhelming.
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## **Suggested activities for NAAPID day**

What parents want to do on NAAPID:

- Classroom visits
- Parent/student breakfast or lunch
- School tours

### **Workshops**

- Improving test scores
- How to assist your child in homework
- Computer basics
- Library and research skills
- Learning styles

### **Speakers**

- Superintendents
- Business leaders
- School to work opportunities
- Community leaders
- State/federal agencies and resources

### **Information table**

- List of teachers' phone numbers
- List of health services
- List of tutoring and mentoring services
- List of school phone numbers and diagram with room numbers