



## Los Angeles Aspire Schools Highlights The Importance of Parental Involvement and Builds Community with ParentSquare

### Challenges

Education and community are transformative in the lives of students and parents. However, charter schools, like Aspire have no built-in parent communities, and require that parents fully commit to the goals and values of their school. Aspire needed a more productive platform for administrators and schools to create an environment where parents feel valued and where a consistent line of communication is open about academic progress and student issues.

### Solution

In an effort to build a community in the Los Angeles area and enhance the quality of involvement and communication among Aspire Schools' parents, administrators implemented ParentSquare, a simple two-way communication platform designed to reach and engage every parent.

#### At a Glance

- Public Charter Schools
- K - 12
- Los Angeles, CA
- [aspirepublicschools.org](http://aspirepublicschools.org)

#### Key Challenge

Los Angeles Aspire Schools struggle to enhance the quality of involvement and build a strong parent and student community for their schools especially in low income and underserved areas.

#### Key Outcome

By relying on ParentSquare's communication platform, Aspire is able to build an involved community by ensuring parents receive the information they need about their child's education, so that they can play an active role even when they cannot be present.

Kate Ford, area superintendent in Los Angeles for Aspire Public Schools is focused on building a community with parents and ensuring they receive the information they need about their child's education, as well as encouraging proactive communication with educators in the area. Aspire teachers are encouraged to think openly about how they can use ParentSquare on a daily basis in order to engage parents. ParentSquare allows Aspire to incorporate blended learning opportunities into their curriculum in order to increase parent involvement, and the use of technology in a communication and assessment capacity.

*"The data is clear that parent engagement is directly correlated to a child's attendance and academic success," said Ford. "By offering blended learning opportunities, schools can reinforce the use of technology and have parents play an integral role in what their children are doing in school." - Kate Ford, Los Angeles Area Superintendent.*

## Results

ParentSquare presented a unique opportunity for Aspire to reach out to parents about serious issues like Common Core assessments, legal, political and family issues. Also, it provides the link to the school community and is used to engage parents in the issues that are directly affecting their child's education and the community they live in.

Parents with children in Aspire Schools lead different and culturally diverse lives outside of school. ParentSquare allowed them to be active partners in their child's education



process, and in turn, increases and ensures positive behavior, attendance, achievement and student progress. Parents need and want to feel like they play an active role in their child's education, even when they can't be present.

*"The platform gives parents something that shows them that the school values the needs of the family," Ford said. "By opening that line of communication about these issue to inform the parents, Aspire is further reinforcing why a partnership mindset and parental involvement is so important when critical issues arise." - Kate Ford, Los Angeles Area Superintendent.*

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