

## Contact us

Fresno State Parent University

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## Program Benefits

**Regardless of family income or background,** students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school
- Graduate and go on to postsecondary education

**School districts** throughout the San Joaquin Valley play an important role in determining the levels of parental involvement in their school sites.

Specifically, school districts can outline their expectations of parents and **regularly communicate with parents** about what children are learning.

Additionally, school districts can provide educational opportunities for parents to learn new digital literacy and language comprehension skills that in turn **will help children succeed in school.**

## Parent University Impact

“When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more.”

- Southwest Educational Development Laboratory

“We are so fortunate to have a partnership with Fresno State Parent University at our school. In the two years of the program’s operation, I have witnessed an incredible growth in our parents’ advocacy and parenting, computer and English skills, as well as a deeper understanding in student development. The power of the acquired knowledge in education is making a difference at our school.”

- Javier Gonzalez, Principal, Huron Middle School

“The Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District partnered with Fresno State Parent University to provide our parents with technology literacy. Parents have gained computer skills, learned several software programs, and how to use our school portals to access their children’s grades and attendance and general information. And they appreciate being brought ‘into the 21st Century.’”

- Yolanda Valdez, Superintendent

**Providing  
Educational Services  
to Parents  
throughout the  
San Joaquin Valley**

**FRESNO**  
**STATE**

Parent University

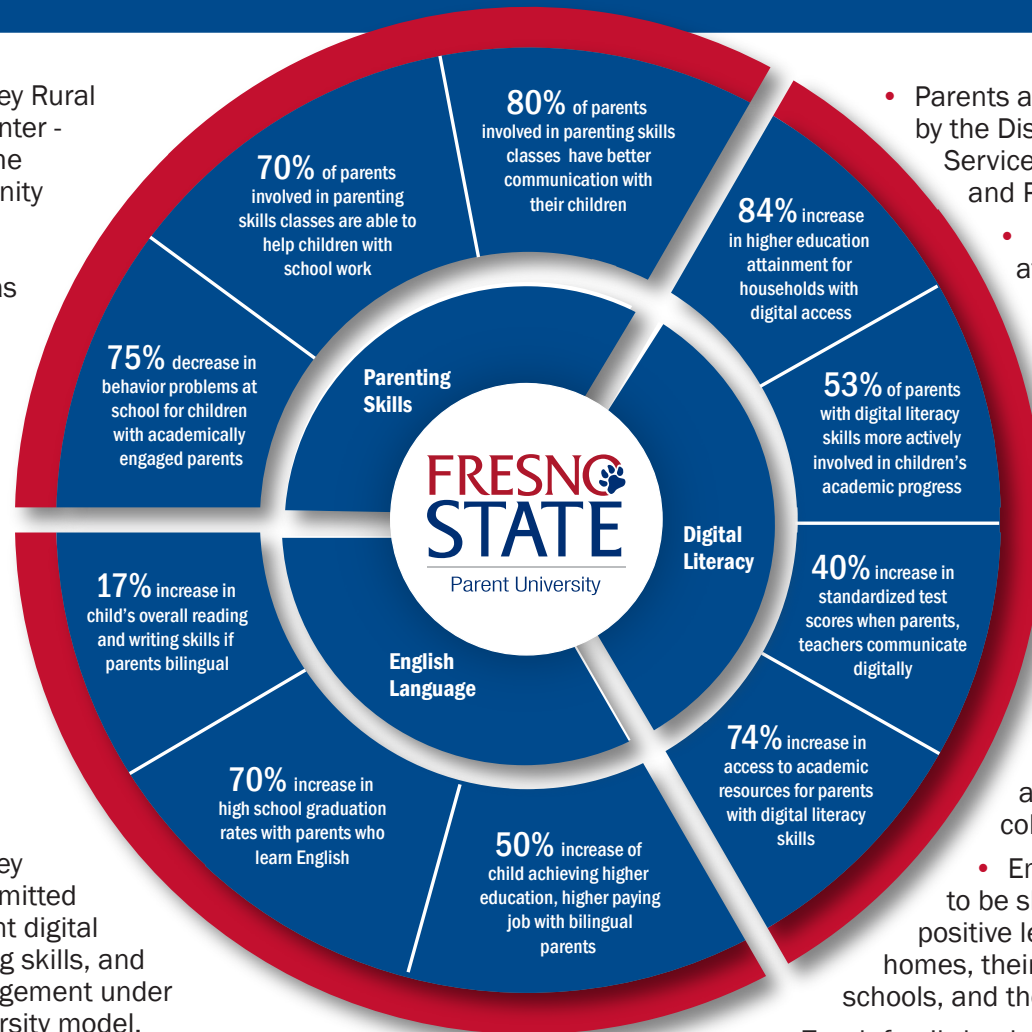
## About Parent University

San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center - a subsidiary of the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State - has been providing San Joaquin Valley school districts in its rural communities the opportunity to engage in Fresno State Parent University since 2013.

School districts and school sites throughout the eight-county Valley region have committed funding for parent digital literacy, parenting skills, and leadership/engagement under the Parent University model.

Since its initial inception, well over 4,500 parents have participated in Fresno State Parent University, which offers classes in Digital Literacy, Parenting Skills, and English Language Comprehension.

Under the direction and oversight of Fresno State Parent University representatives and instructors:



- Parents are refereed or recruited by the District's Student Support Services and/or site principals and Parent University staff.
- Maintain minimum 75% attendance/participation rate at all Parent University sessions.
- Provide classes for a minimum of 20 unduplicated parents, with no maximum required. Classes will be 9 weeks per cohort; two weekly meetings at a total of 5 hours per week; morning or evening sessions as needed. 2 cohorts per year.
- Empower families to be skilled, confident, positive leaders in their homes, their children's schools, and their communities.
- Teach family leadership development skills that help develop strong public speaking skills, community mobilizing and enhance leadership qualities.
- Increase parent/guardian-child interaction through family involvement and assure that family leaders are invested in the outcomes of their involvement through Parent University.

## Certificate Program Structure

Fresno State Parent University is designed to provide the most essential core competencies in each area. This allows participants to learn useful career skills that will complement their own career goals.

Participants are awarded a certificate when they:

- Complete all class work
- Attend 80% of the 9-week course
- Pass the course with 80% on the final exam

Program certificates are distributed during Fresno State Parent University awards night, held at the end of each 9-week cohort. Families are invited to attend and celebrate the achievements of their parents.

