



An in-depth look at Pelham City Schools



INTRODUCTIONS



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Superintendent



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Communications Director



- »»» Established 2014
- »»» 3300+ students
- »»» 450+ faculty & staff
- »»» 4 schools

THE CHALLENGE

HOW WELL DOES YOUR COMMUNITY
REALLY KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS?



- »» Who tells your district's story when you're not in the room?
- »» What do community members actually know about what happens inside your schools?
- »» Where are their perceptions coming from?
- »» How often do community leaders actually experience your schools firsthand?

THE IDEA

PEOPLE SUPPORT WHAT THEY
UNDERSTAND.

»»» Invite them in.

»»» Give them context.

»»» Show them the work.

»»» Build relationships.

»»» Provide facts. Correct
misinformation.



WHAT IS PCS ConnectED?

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THAT BUILDS
UNDERSTANDING, CONNECTION &
ADVOCACY.

Participants gain a broader understanding of:

- teaching and learning
- operations and finances
- student opportunities
- assessment, accountability, and achievement
- district priorities and challenges
- the people behind the work



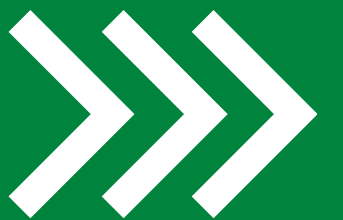
WE DIDN'T INVENT THIS

WE ADMIRER AND ACQUIRED.

You should too!



Mobile County
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



WHEN WE SHARE WHAT WORKS, WE ALL WIN.

FROM IDEA TO IMPLEMENTATION

WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

»»» Champion

»»» Coordinator

»»» Time commitment

»»» Staff willing to tell their story

»»» Communication plan, and *a little hospitality!* 

SPONSORS:



PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



MORE THAN A MEETING.

A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT.

- Seven meetings over the course of a school year
- Tuesday evenings, 6–8 p.m. (meal available beginning at 5:30 p.m.)
- Sessions scheduled strategically at facilities across the district
- Superintendent and District Administrative Team in attendance
- Attendance requirements: participants must be on time and attend the full session; no more than one missed session to graduate



PROGRAM STRUCTURE



MORE THAN A MEETING.

A MEANINGFUL COMMITMENT.

- Participants receive a binder with copies of session presentations and additional handouts from presenters
- Participants receive a name tag and an All Sports Pass
- Approximately 25 class members in each cohort
- Questions are taken at the end of each session rather than during presentations
- Graduation and presentation before the Board of Education

MAKING IT HAPPEN

TURNING THE IDEA INTO *your* PROGRAM.



BUILD THE EXPERIENCE

- Determine your topics • Develop the schedule • Identify locations • Recruit presenters



RECRUIT YOUR COHORT

- Identify your audience • Promote the opportunity • Create an application • Select participants



PLAN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

- Develop program identity • Recruitment materials • Acceptance/welcome • Expectations • Session reminders

MAKING IT HAPPEN

TURNING THE IDEA INTO *your* PROGRAM.

»» MANAGE THE DETAILS

- Meals • Materials • Attendance • Session logistics • Follow-up

»» KEEP THEM CONNECTED

- Feedback • Continued communication • Advocacy opportunities • Graduation/recognition

A VIEW FROM EVERY ANGLE

An in-depth look at the people, departments, and decisions that work together to support student success.

PELHAM CITY SCHOOLS
ConnectED
MEETING SCHEDULE

15 SEPTEMBER	SYSTEM OVERVIEW, BUDGET, FINANCE	CENTRAL OFFICE
20 OCTOBER	COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH & STUDENT SERVICES, COMMUNICATIONS	PELHAM RIDGE ELEMENTARY
17 NOVEMBER	CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT, ZONING	PELHAM PARK MIDDLE
19 JANUARY	HUMAN RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION	CENTRAL OFFICE
16 FEBRUARY	CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION, FEDERAL PROGRAMS, ATHLETICS	PELHAM HIGH SCHOOL
16 MARCH	CHILD NUTRITION, SPECIAL EDUCATION	PELHAM OAKS ELEMENTARY
20 APRIL	ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY, TECHNOLOGY	CENTRAL OFFICE
TBD MAY	GRADUATION	TBD

pelhamcityschools.org

THE APPLICATION

BASIC INFORMATION

- Contact information • Occupation • Employer/organization

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- Parent/guardian • Resident • Alumni • Business/community leader • Volunteer • Civic organization • Retired educator • PCS employee

INTEREST & PERSPECTIVE

- Why do you want to participate? • What do you hope to gain? • What topics interest you? • Tell us about yourself.

COMMITMENT

- Provide all session dates up front • Clearly state attendance expectations • Require applicants to acknowledge the time commitment



ConnectedED

PCS ConnectED

Thank you for your interest in PCS ConnectEd. Through monthly sessions during the school year, PCS ConnectEd will give parents and community members an in-depth look at Pelham City Schools.

Applications will be accepted through Friday, August 28, 2026. Approximately 25 participants will be selected to participate in the first year of the program and notified by Friday, September 4, 2026.

Your Information

Description (optional)

First Name *

Short answer text

Last Name *

Short answer text

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSISTENT. INFORMATIVE. INTENTIONAL.



PCS ConnectED An in-depth look at Pelham City Schools.

At Pelham City Schools, our mission is to collaborate with parents and community to inspire and empower students to achieve personal success. PCS ConnectED is a community engagement program designed to help parents and community members learn more about Pelham City Schools and gain a deeper understanding of the many people, departments, and decisions that work together to support student success.

Through engaging sessions, conversations with district leaders, and opportunities to experience different aspects of our school system, participants explore how Pelham City Schools serves students each day while building stronger connections between our schools and the community.

Our First Class Is Underway!

The 2026–2027 PCS ConnectED class is underway, and applications for this year are open. The application window for the **2027–2028 class will open in late summer** for a new group of parents, employees, and



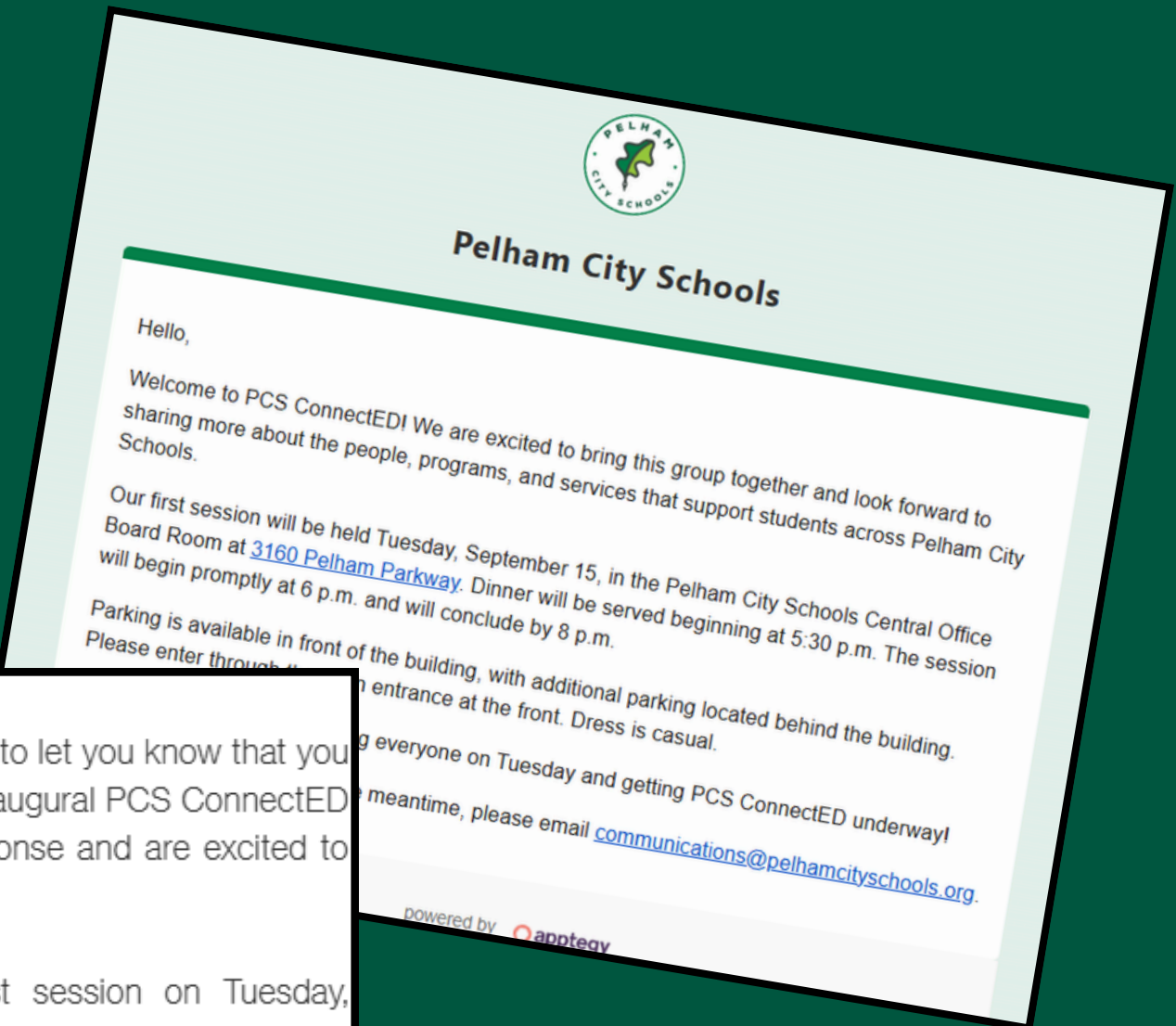
Robert Plummer

Message

Pelham City Schools: Hello! We're pleased to let you know that you have been selected to participate in the inaugural PCS ConnectED class. We received an overwhelming response and are excited to welcome you to the program!

Please mark your calendar for our first session on Tuesday, September 15, in the Pelham City Schools Central Office Board Room at 3160 Pelham Parkway. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., and the session will begin at 6 p.m.

To confirm your participation, please email your name and preferred email address to communications@pelhamcityschools.org by



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

THE AUDIENCE BECOMES OUR NETWORK.



Participant Feedback

"The leaders of our Tuscaloosa County School System have such a large responsibility & obligation to our community that they handle with great poise and expertise! They really do care about our students and our community. I am thankful for the opportunity to learn more about all they do to support, train, educate and develop our kids! I consider myself a pretty involved & educated parent, but I had NO IDEA all that goes into making our school system what it is. No system is perfect, but these public servants are working diligently to make the TCSS the best it can be!"



Participant Feedback

"Being a part of TCSS U allowed me a glimpse of the Tuscaloosa County School System on an intimate level. I have learned about great programs, innovative approaches to instruction, and felt community and camaraderie. The district leaders have been open, honest, and intentional about funding, needs, and facts. "



TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

A FEW THINGS WE'VE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY.

- »»» Keep the size of the cohort manageable.
- »»» Include faculty & staff as participants.
- »»» Provide a nice meal.
- »»» Plan plenty of time for each topic. Show the complicated parts, too.
- »»» Don't just recruit your biggest cheerleaders
- »»» Build in conversation, not just presentations.
- »»» Reinforce importance of in-person conversations and relationships.
- »»» Stay on schedule.
- »»» Ask for feedback.
- »»» Keep participants connected.

**ADMIRE.
ACQUIRE.
ADAPT.
SHARE.**



TAKE WHAT WORKS. MAKE IT YOURS. THEN PASS IT ON.

CONTACT US

WE LOVE TO TALK!



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