



Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, lead, and succeed in school, career, and civic life. Project GRAD is seeking talented and dedicated teachers who will help ensure that opportunity.

**Join the Faculty of GRAD Academy Memphis in 2017-18
Parent/Family Engagement and At Risk Services Coordinator**

GRAD Academy Memphis is part of the Achievement School District (ASD) of Tennessee, a statewide district that seeks to close the opportunity gaps long persistent in Tennessee's public education by 2025. GRAD Academy opened in 2013-2014 with a 9th grade class and continued adding a grade each year through 2016-17, when it became 9th-12th grade high school.

Instruction at GRAD Academy Memphis is based on the New Tech Network model, a project-based learning approach supported by a comprehensive technology platform. Through New Tech, GRAD Academy faculty are part of a nationwide network of educators who are demonstrating that students can meet challenging academic standards through hands-on engagement with meaningful, locally relevant questions and problems.

We seek faculty who are excited to take on this ambitious instructional model, to realize GRAD's mission of disrupting inequities in public education to ensure that all our scholars have the knowledge, skills and habits of mind to become responsible citizens and stewards of our future.

Job Summary:

The Director of Parent/Family Engagement and at Risk Services works closely with the school staff, parents and community to create, support, and strengthen strategies and activities for parents with students at risk with an emphasis on the social, emotional and academic success of their children based on a two tiered system:

Tier I

Spearhead school wide Tier I initiatives in collaboration with community partners and volunteers around data specific areas such as chronic absenteeism, literacy rates, socio-economic behavior, and life skills

Tier II

Identify special populations to help eliminate non-academic barriers to education such as homelessness, abuse/neglect, food insecurities, and/or behavioral diagnosis

Job expectations:

The Director of Parent/Family Engagement and At Risk Services serves as the liaison between school and parents, relaying the needs of one to the other; educates teachers and staff on how to communicate and work effectively with parents as equal partners; advises and trains parents on how to address issues with the leadership staff in school meetings; serves as a school-based intermediary contact for concerns and comments made by parents and community members; provides referrals to community-based services for families; expands opportunities for continued learning, voluntary community service and civic participation; develops community collaborations; promotes sharing of power with parents as decision-makers; helps parents understand the educational system so they can become better advocates for their children's education; maintains parent resource center. Additionally, the Director of Parent/Family Engagement and At Risk Services will:

- Identify, initiate, and deepen relationships with various community stakeholders and parents
- Expand and develop new partnership opportunities which align with school's mission and purpose
- Schedule, implement, and create community-based programs, partnerships, and other engagement initiatives
- Recruit and support mentor and volunteer program
- Facilitate wrap around services to students and families. Serve as liaison between student/families and social service agencies (Anaya, Intercepts, DCS, Alliance, Lakeside, DJJ, CSA)
- Work with Social Workers, Community Partner Staff (CIS, Agape, Youth Villages) to develop pathways toward individual student success
- Monitor the referral process and update school leaders on progress and services provided

Qualifications and Skills:

- Experience serving as an advocate for children and parents
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Strong public speaking and presentation skills
- Self-motivated leader who can work independently as well as part of team
- Strong interpersonal skills Knowledge of family engagement research and literature
- Understands and respects the diversity of families' economic, linguistic and cultural backgrounds and situations
- Ability to host parent meetings off school sites and in the local community and/or neighborhoods
- Experience with developing collaborative partners and building relationships with constituents in the community

Compensation and Start Date

Salaries and benefits will be competitive with local school district and charter school schedules to attract and retain top talent.

Application Instructions

To apply, send a current résumé and letter of interest to hr@projectgradusa.org, with the subject line “GRAD Academy Memphis”. Applicants who advance past initial screening will be asked to provide sample teaching and planning resources they have developed, as well as a demonstration lesson on site or on video.

About Project GRAD and GRAD Academy Memphis

For over two decades, Project GRAD (GRAD) has been a national leader in transforming student achievement and opportunity in schools serving low income communities. In 2008, Project GRAD was named an officially authorized program of the United States Department of Education under the auspices of the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

Distinguishing GRAD Academy Memphis is our conviction that learners’ ideas, cultural backgrounds, and communities are central resources for rigorous learning and achievement. School leaders, faculty, staff and families work together to promote:

- Students’ authentic engagement in meaningful problems and projects as the context for learning
- A culture of high expectations and high support for both students and adults
- Strong relationships among the school, families and community partners
- Tools, time, and routines for teachers to work together to gather, examine, and respond to student progress data.
- Frequent opportunities for teacher leadership and learning of cutting edge approaches to serving learners.

To learn more about Project GRAD and GRAD Academy Memphis, please visit www.projectgrad.org.