



Bronx Academy of Promise

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2018-2019

To strengthen student academic achievement, Bronx Academy of Promise receives Title I, Part A funds and must, therefore, develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This policy establishes Bronx Academy of Promise's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Bronx Academy of Promise agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of ESSA. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;

(C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.

- The school will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Bronx Academy of Promise will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:
 - Bronx Academy of Promise will plan each year to organize an ESSA Consultation meeting to address Parent/Family Engagement to review/revise the school’s plan.
 - In addition, Bronx Academy of Promise currently organizes a Shared Decision Making Team that meets to review, revise or reorganize various aspects of the school’s systems. The team includes all stakeholders, including staff and parents. This team will meet to review the parental involvement plan and provide additional feedback and support for the ESSA Consultation meeting.
2. Bronx Academy of Promise will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:
 - The school’s Shared Decision Making Team will meet to provide a review of the school’s progress and/or suggestions for improvement. The Shared Decision Making Team is comprised of staff as well as parents, providing a voice for all stakeholders, especially our parents.

3. Bronx Academy of Promise will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- The evaluation will be conducted at the end of every school year, in order to be able to include all necessary components, for a consistent review.
- The Principal and/or Executive Director will be responsible for planning and conducting the evaluation.
- All materials will be offered in the parent's native language, as well as providing translation during all meetings to facilitate a comprehensive evaluation for all individuals.
- The role of the parents will include:
 1. To provide feedback as to the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy
 2. To review the policy in light of their feedback
 3. To provide suggestions for revision in an effort to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.

1. Bronx Academy of Promise will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and

- how to work with educators

Bronx Academy of Promise currently provides the following items to help support parental involvement—

1. Monthly Breakfast Club meetings with the administrative team provide for an intimate setting to address various themes for parents, such as, but not limited to NYS Assessments, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and health/emotional/social issues.
2. The inclusion of a Special Education Parent Organization, led by the school's Special Education Coordinator, to help support parents surrounding this topic.
3. Parent meetings held throughout the year to help support the ELA and Math curriculum. During the presentations, teachers offer support and suggestions on how to best help parents become partners in education with the school

Moving forward, Bronx Academy of Promise will incorporate the following initiatives for parents—

1. Bi-monthly workshops held to provide additional information and support on school-wide programs, such as Guided Reading/Guided Math, Fountas and Pinnell Assessments, Character/Career programs (7th/8th grade Advisory Program)
- B. The school will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

Bronx Academy of Promise will provide the following to help foster parental involvement—

1. Introduction of ESL classes for parents to provide support for the academic curriculum
 2. Providing the school's technology to help foster parental involvement in their child's academic achievement
 3. Offering avenues for social/emotional development through activities/training from our school's counselors and other outside agencies
- C. The school will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

1. Working collaboratively with the school's Parent Coordinator to support the Bronx Academy of Promise' Parent Organization
2. Provide information/workshops to parents regarding the various communication methods used by the school to encourage parent involvement and provide for important correspondence

D. The school will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Bronx Academy of Promise incorporates a variety of avenues to provide for communication to our families which include—

1. Bronx Academy of Promise interactive website
2. Bronx Academy of Promise APP
3. Electronic methods of communication via text, email and telephone through BlackBoard Connect
4. Electronic methods of communication regarding student grades, attendance etc. through Gradelink
5. All parental correspondence is sent home both in English and Spanish.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The District wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1116 of the ESSA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home

conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;

- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children through meetings held with parent representatives and the Shared Decision Making Team.

This policy was adopted by the Bronx Academy of Promise on February 28, 2019 and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30th of each school year.

Catherine Jackyony
Executive Director
February 28, 2019