

BALTIMORE CITY --- PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1

Office of Partnerships, Communications and
Community Engagement

Michael Sarbanes, Executive Director

Graduating Great Kids Summit
March 3, 2010

BALTIMORE
CITY

GREAT KIDS
GREAT SCHOOLS

PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Theory of Action

2

If resources are in the schools:

- **school communities** have autonomy over resources
- resources are allocated transparently according to a formula based on student population and characteristics
- there is appropriate guidance, support and accountability from central,

then **school communities** will make improved decisions based on school needs and student achievement will increase.

Engaged parents and community partners are critical parts of a strong **school community**

Efforts to Engage Families & Communities

3

Recent Key Activities

- Strengthened Family & Community Engagement Policy
- Launched The Family Institute
- Created Innovative Community Partnerships
- Enhanced Partner & Volunteer Program

Family & Community Engagement Policy

4

- Reflecting strong system-wide commitment: “family and community engagement is an important component for student success”
 - ✦ Inclusion in Fair Student Funding budget process
 - ✦ District community forums on a variety of policies and issues
- Establishing framework for implementing strategies to increase family and community engagement
 - ✦ Stronger emphasis in school-level planning

Family & Community Engagement Policy

5

- Supporting federal and state parent involvement requirements
 - ✦ Strategic use of Title I funds

- Clarifying roles in schools
 - ✦ Organized Parent Groups
 - ✦ School Family Council Membership
 - ✦ Engagement Team
 - ✦ Advisory Team

The Family Institute

6

- Helps families and school staff to create stronger partnerships between schools, families and communities.
- Year-long calendar of free courses, trainings, peer-to-peer learning opportunities and other programs to empower and educate.
- 5 sites offering food, child care & transportation
- Stipends to support a Family Coach and Community Recruiter for each site
- Partnered with 15 external partners to present courses

The Family Institute

7

- Over 400 parents were served between April and June 2009
- Served over 300 parents this school year
- Courses focus on 6 tracks (based on Epstein's Six Types of Involvement)
 - ✦ Parenting
 - ✦ Communicating
 - ✦ Volunteering
 - ✦ Learning at Home
 - ✦ Decision Making
 - ✦ Collaborating with the Community

Community Partnerships

8

Expanded links between schools and network of community-based resources

- **Community Support for Schools**
 - ✦ From 68 schools in SY 08-09 to 87 schools in SY 09-10
 - ✦ 22 community-based organizations contracted in SY 09-10
 - ✦ Achieved district and school-specific parent engagement outcomes
 - ✦ Yielded significant results in FARM campaign

Community Partnerships

9

- **Community Resource Schools**
 - ✦ 17 schools with a full-time Site Coordinator
 - ✦ 9 community-based partners help to support schools with attendance, climate and parent involvement
- **Great Kids Come Back Campaign**
 - ✦ Contracted 13 community-based organizations
 - ✦ Convened street teams to conduct home visits for 853 students who had dropped out of school
 - ✦ 351 students responded as a result

Volunteer Program

10

- Revised policies to clarify expectation for recruitment, engagement and retention of volunteers
- Process made more convenient for volunteers
 - ✦ City Schools pays for volunteer background checks
 - ✦ Developed ability to register and shop for opportunities online
 - ✦ Created Great Partners Program

Online System Sample

- Volunteer
- Partner
- Donate
- Message From Dr. Alonso
- Great Kids Up Close

- Quick Links
- Register To Volunteer
 - Volunteer Log In
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Register to Partner
 - Partner Log In
 - Great Kids Farm
 - Log Out

VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in supporting City Schools. Strong partners and community support from volunteers are key resources for creating great schools. Volunteers give their time and talent so that students can grow and thrive.

- Register** Tell us what kinds of opportunities are of interest to you.
- Choose a Volunteer Position** Search the available opportunities that have been uploaded by schools and sign up for what interests you. You will receive an email with next steps.
- Time Log/ Feedback** You can keep track of your time and give feedback on your experience.
- See Volunteers in Action** To see some great volunteers in action, please check out [Great Kids Up Close](#).
- One-Time Volunteer Opportunities** Enter your email address to find out about one-time volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Screening Information: According to City Schools [regulations](#), some volunteer positions will require a background check. The volunteer opportunity description will indicate if a background check is needed. If a background check is needed, please see the [background check instructions](#). All volunteers are screened against the national sex offender registry when they register online as a volunteer with City Schools.

Questions

12

1. What is the role of community partners? How can City Schools support this engagement
2. What do you think are the next steps?

Contact Information

13

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