

**PARENT OUTREACH SERVICES
(BSEP Measure A, Resource 0857)**

OVERVIEW: FY 2016-17

Purpose:

**Budget Managers: Susan Craig, Director of Student Services, and
Ann Callegari, Supervisor of Family Engagement and Equity**

Staff

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The OFEE team provided parent education, outreach, and coordinated, collaborated, facilitated, initiated and implemented groups, workshops and programs at school sites and at the District level. Consistent themes and needs in our district included: attendance, need for housing and food, special education and overrepresentation of African Americans, and supporting guardians in meetings with school and District staff.

Activities in 2016-17 included:

K-to-College School Supply and dental hygiene Give-Away which reached more than 1,000 socio-economically disadvantaged families in September 2016

Attendance Awareness Month Celebrations at every elementary, middle and BHS in September 2016

College Readiness and Financial Aid Clinics in October, 2016, March 2017

9th Grade Matters - Personal welcome and school and district navigation workshops for target 9th grade students and families. This event was well attended.

Kinder Fair parent outreach

Four-part Parent Education and Leadership Training (11/22, 1/21, 3 /4, 4/29, 2017) - Parent Champion These workshops addressed the history and policies race, gender and nationalism that create obstacles to educating children of color. Understanding the educational system, navigating the educational institutions with confidence, and parents were learned to create an action plan for their children's education and future.

BUSD Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Visual Arts and Essay Contest and Celebration April 2017

Screenagers - Documentary screening and the film director Q&A about the impact of screen time on youth. Parents and students committed to less screen time.

Supported schools with outreach and developing parent leaders for ELAC and DELAC

Middle School and High School transition meetings for seamless transitions for our most vulnerable students and families

PowerSchool support ongoing parent education

Back to School Night and Open House outreach; worked with schools to provide childcare

Parent Teacher Conference outreach and bridge communication gaps for families and staff when needed

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Educate and support for families of students with IEPs (Individual Educational Plan for special education students) or 504 (Child Education Accommodation) plans.

Immigration Forums, workshops, and legal support for our immigrant families in November 2016 and January 2017

Food Pantries at most elementary schools and BHS.

Partnered with McKinney-Vento Coordinator to support homeless families with food, clothing, housing, student enrollment, and communicating with school staff.

As Berkeley continues to gentrify, many low income families are becoming displaced and seeking basic needs such as food, shelter, mental health and medical support. OFEE is collaborating with the District Nurse and the City of Berkeley to customize the Family Information and Navigation Desk (FIND) online tool that is currently used by Children's Hospital to bridge the inequities in health care by identifying appropriate resources and supports for families. When using this tool, Family Engagement staff will quickly access customized lists of resources for families based on their unique needs.

Progress on 2016-17 SMART Goals

Goal #1.

Form a Family Engagement Advisory Committee made up of stakeholders, including parents/guardians, community partners and district leaders and staff.

Result: Forming a district level advisory committee that has a strong parent/guardian base is our goal. This was difficult to do without starting with site committees. The OFEE team has been tasked with coordinating Family Engagement Advisory Committees at their sites, and the representatives from these committees will form the base for the district committee. We have three community partners and district administrators who are ready to join this committee. We have a goal of coming together in March 2018.

Goal #2.

Train at least five parents and staff at every school in a program such as the "Parenting Partners Program" in order to build capacity for family engagement.

Result: The OFEE team decided to develop its own BUSD customized parent education program to support and build the capacity of parents and staff. After careful research and cost estimates to purchase packaged parenting programs to bring to our district, we decided to go in a different direction. The cost of Parenting Partners and other similar programs was between three and five thousand per site, and this did not fit our budget. The cost was not the only reason we did not use a package program for parent development. The programs did not fit the diversity we have in Berkeley, which is not only racial, but includes education, levels of awareness, and abilities to

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partner, support and advocate for student success and socioeconomic status. Our parent training takes Berkeley's uniqueness into consideration.

We piloted our customized OFEE Parent Education training with our Ramp Up Saturday School parents beginning October 2017, and it has been well received. We are also offering and scheduling relationship and partnership development training to school site staff and parent groups.

Goal #3.

Engage at least two parents from each school in a Latino Family Affinity Group, with meetings at least monthly, and one retreat, using a framework such as PIQE.

Result: Immigration was the focus in 2016-17. Although we know that all Latinos are not immigrants, many needed legal, emotional and advocacy support. In response to this shift, OFEE focused on gathering information, and making sure families know their rights. Also, as with the Family Engagement Advisory, we have come to understand that developing site affinity groups before district-wide connections makes sense. Specialists are tasked with identifying one or two Latino parents/guardians to assist them with bring together other Latino families. The OFEE Parent training (focused on helping parents to tell their stories in their affinity group) will be used to strengthen families at the site.