

Newark Board of Education

Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024 School Year

School:

Bard High School Early College



"Through it all, students will be at the center. All of our work and every decision we make will be for the educational benefit of our students."

(Superintendent Roger León: The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan)

Newark Board of Education Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

**2023-2024 School Year
Bard High School Early College**

"When schools and community organizations work together to support learning, everyone benefits..."
(Strategy 6: The Next Decade: 2020-30 Strategic Plan)

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS OF NBOE

ALL Newark Board of Education Schools that operate a Title I schoolwide program agree to implement the following statutory requirements that are highlighted in further detail later in this document:

- 1) Create a Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, consistent with requirements of section 1118¹ of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and agreed upon by parents of that particular school;
- 2) Ensure that all information is relayed to parents in format(s) and language(s) that make it accessible and understandable;
- 3) Function with the understanding that parental involvement means "the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:
 - a) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - b) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - c) 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; and in
 - d) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA"²

¹ <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html#sec1118>

² <https://www.mingoschools.com/domain/1628>

**Bard High School Early College's
Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2023-2024**

Title I regulations require that each school served under Title I jointly develop with and distribute to parents of participating children, a written involvement policy agreed on by the parents that describes the requirements of SEC. 1118. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT (e) through (f) as listed below and outlined in the Title I law:

(C.) Policy Involvement

Each school operating a Title I schoolwide program will –

1. Host an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children will be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I, to explain the requirements under Title I, and the right of the parents to be involved;

The 2023-2024 Title I Annual Meeting will be held in-person – as it was last year – at Bard High School Early College's Back to School Night on 21 September, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement as appropriate;

We will return to a review of the rights, requirements and benefits of Title I at each of our Proud Parent Workshops, offered two times each month, for the duration of the school year.

3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy;

A goal of our Family Engagement Program will be to identify ways that interested parents can get involved, as well as ways that they can be inspired to get involved – in the education of their own child, and possibly in the education of all our students. This may involve chaperoning on field trips, helping with special events, or supporting our students' community service efforts.

4. Provide parents of participating children –
 - a. Timely information about programs under this part;
 - b. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels students are expected to meet regarding the challenging State academic standards; and
 - c. if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Syllabi and other documents that provide information about the academic program will be shared on the school website, parents will be encouraged to access PowerSchool Parent Portal, to join their child's Google Classroom in various classes, to attend workshops – especially those in which we will read together texts their students read in Seminar!, and we will explain at a Proud Parent Workshop how Bard is able to help our students earn an Associate's degree while still in high school.

5. If the Annual School Plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the Newark Board of Education.

We will create multiple opportunities for parents to provide input in the daily- and long-term goals of the school – we want to hear their voices – and will prepare them to make informed recommendations by teaching them about our programs, our vision, our community, our hopes for our students.

(D.) Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school will jointly develop with parents for all children served under Title I a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, using research-based practices.

When parents meet the principal for Coffee and Conversation during one of our Proud Parent Workshops, we will review and evaluate the school-parent compact to align and outline all stakeholders' responsibilities for improved student academic achievement.

(E.) Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under this part –

1. Will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or Newark Board of Education, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of these standards and assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
 - Parent Teacher Conference Night twice per year on December 7, 2023 & February 15.
 - Distribution of Progress Reports four times per year on October 4, 2023, December 19, 2023, March 6, 2024 and May 23, 2024.
 - Distribution of Report Cards four times per year on December 7, 2023, February 15, 2024, April 26, 2024 and June 21, 2024.

One sample workshop that will be offered will introduce parents to the Powerschool Parent Portal. They will learn not only how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children, but they will learn how to read the reports contained in PowerSchool.

2. Will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement;

During a Proud Parent Workshop, we plan to read with parents texts their children typically read, we will solve problems their children typically solve in school, we will learn how to use devices, and/or explore together the digital resources that are made available to NBOE students.

3. Will educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other school leaders and staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;

We will share in faculty meeting best practices for engaging families, and making them partners in our efforts.

We will utilize the Parent Survey created by the Office of Policy, Planning, Evaluation and Testing. Our Parent liaison will stay in touch with parents, and create surveys in multiple languages for families to fill out so she can become aware of the best forms of communication.

4. Will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
5. Will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; using all District supported methods of communication.

It will be important to review home language surveys to become familiar with the languages represented at the school and disseminate correspondence in the home language when applicable.

6. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
7. May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
8. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
9. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
10. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation;
11. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
12. May establish a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in programs supported under this section;
13. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent and family engagement activities; and
14. Will provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request.

One initiative we would like to introduce is one whereby parents can study what their children study, so they can speak meaningfully with their children about what's happening in their classes, and they can better understand the nature of our unique program.

(F.) Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of this part, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of

- parents with children with limited English proficiency,

- parents with children with disabilities,
- and parents of migratory children,

We will do our best to provide information and school reports in a format and language that all parents can understand.

We will publish flyers, agendas, and announcements in both English & the languages of the various individuals represented in our school. Additionally, we will make families aware of the various resources available in our school, our district, and our community.

This School Parental Engagement Policy template has been completed jointly and agreed upon with the parents of Bard High School Early College and can be revised as necessary, based on our conversations throughout the school year..

This policy was adopted by Bard High School Early College on and will be in effect for the period of school year 2023-2024. The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before October 20, 2023.

David Cutts

(Signature of School Principal)

10/20/2023

(Date)