

BSEP

Berkeley Schools
EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Support for Students and Families

Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent

Natasha Beery, BSEP Director

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Parent Outreach and Family Engagement

Family Engagement Coordinators and Parent Liaisons K-5 and High School: 8.0 FTE

Focus on engaging families who have historically not been as visible in the school community

Awareness of all kinds of families: guardians, grandparents, foster parents, single parents, blended families, etc.

Engage parents beyond the limits of fundraising, chaperoning, or attending PTA meetings

Recognize and cultivate the knowledge, resources and strength of each family

Issues and Opportunities

Maslow's Hierarchy: Basic *health, safety and security* are often prerequisites for optimal engagement in the creative and problem-solving processes of the educational experience

- Need for consistent focus on attendance
- Expand efforts to inform parents more explicitly about annual learning goals

Middle School Counseling

Counselors build connections between students and broader services and supports within the school and community

Assess barriers to academic success; work collaboratively with teachers, administrators, and parents to devise ways to identify and remove obstacles to students' success

Are often part of interdisciplinary team efforts to address student needs and educational goals

Can provide consultation and specific insights on student needs to their teacher colleagues.

Issues and Opportunities

Increased roles in creating a safe and welcoming school climate

- SEL training/Counselor-Specific PD: Counselors are on our PBIS teams, our Equity teams and involved in our Toolbox and/or other SEL programming.
- Counselors help orient and connect our parents, and are often the positive, trusted adult on campus for many of our students--- are in many ways assuming family engagement responsibilities at MS

Public Information, Translation, and Community Engagement

Public Information:

Team supports multiple channels - mail, email, phone blasts, social media, news media, videos, photos, streaming board meetings, website, email newsletter, biannual report, public information requests, and more.

Translation:

Full-time Spanish translator/interpreter - parent information, policies, curriculum, meetings, student reports and evaluations. Language Line for on phone interpretation in dozens of languages.

Community Engagement:

Outreach, elections, training and support for school and district committees - SGC, P&O - as well as town halls, community forums, and other public outreach

Issues and Opportunities

Adapt to evolving communications channels such as texting and social media to better reach families and improve two-way opportunities

Address needs of families who speak languages other than Spanish

Increase coordination with OFEE for improved outreach and engagement with underrepresented and/or underserved communities