

2016-17 Evaluation of the Office of Family and Community Engagement Program

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EA17-151-4

At-a-Glance

The mission of the Office of Family and Community Engagement (OFCE) was to develop and implement programs to engage parents and the community in collaborative parent-school-community partnerships. The OFCE included a Campus Support Team and Program Support Team. The total Title I funding amount available for OFCE was \$1,062,425.

Purpose and Methods of the Evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation was to evaluate the extent to which OFCE staff implemented their programs with fidelity, met expected outcomes as outlined in program documents, and to analyze the impact of this program on school climate. Data were collected and provided by OFCE staff and included records of workshops, activities and events conducted, and parent survey results.

OFCE Support

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal provided parents/guardians with secure online access to their children's grades, assignments, and attendance. The Parent Portal also sent emails or texts to alert parents of changes to grades and/or absences. Communication was available in English and Spanish.

OFCE staff reported that 78.3 percent of students in 2016-17 had at least one parent registered in the Parent Portal. This was an increase from 68 percent in 2015-16.

Uniform Assistance Program

Through the Uniform Assistance Program, the OFCE provided free uniforms to students in prekindergarten through eighth grade who met the district's economically disadvantaged guidelines. Once approved, students received one free uniform each school year.

OFCE staff reported that the budget for the Uniform Assistance Program was \$300,000 for 2016-17. As of February 2017, 99.96 percent of this budget was used to provide students with uniform assistance.

Parent Resource and Empowerment Program (PREP) University Workshop Series

PREP University workshops focused on strategies for parents to support their children academically, emotionally, and socially. Sixty-eight workshops, available in English with Spanish available, occurred between September and May. Another five special events were organized for parents from March through May 2017.

The OFCE also offered nine PREP U Super Saturdays throughout the year. Community organizations set up information tables and offered free health screenings. Refreshments, student entertainment, and giveaways were also provided.

OFCE staff reported that 13,375 parents attended the PREP U workshops in 2016-17. This was an increase from 9,755 in 2015-16.

Training Academy

OFCE staff members offered training to staff, parents, and community members throughout the school year. Topics for parents included Parent Portal, Navigating the District's Concern Resolution Process, and SchoolMessenger. Professional development for school personnel included Planning a Successful Back to School Family Event, Effective School Newsletters, and Planning a Successful Health Fair.

OFCE staff reported that 196 schools were represented by either staff or parents at a minimum of one workshop in the 2016-17 Training Academy.

Latino Family Literacy Project

The Latino Family Literacy Project launched in spring of 2017. The elementary program consisted of a family reading program that taught parents the importance of literacy. The secondary program consisted of a story to illustrate the college-going process and a language-accessible college planner.

OFCE staff reported that 1,411 parents and 170 students were served through the Latino Family Literacy Project at 14 campuses by May 2017.

Parents Matter Too!

OFCE staff organized a family workshop series for parents and community members as part of the African American Success Initiative (AASI). Six workshops were located within two feeder patterns. A total of 210 attendees participated in the Parents Matter Too series.

Parent Survey

OFCE staff coordinated Dallas ISD's annual parent survey in March and April. Results indicated that 80.4 percent of parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the direction of the district in 2016-17. This was an increase from 74.7 percent in 2015-16.

Summary

OFCE identified several goals for 2016-17. The goals and results are described in Table 1.

Table 1: 2016-17 OFCE Goals and Results

Goals	Results
Host a minimum of five PREP University workshops.	OFCE staff offered between eight and nine workshops each month.
Increase PREP U attendance by five percent.	PREP U attendance increased by over 130 percent.
Parent survey will indicate 80 percent satisfaction with resources available.	Parent survey results indicated that 80.4 percent of parents were satisfied.
Workshops will be offered to parents within five feeder patterns.	OFCE offered workshops at 24 different feeder patterns.
Increase Parent Portal registrations by five percent.	Parent Portal registrations increased by over 10 percent.
Offer a minimum of 2 professional development sessions for staff at 22 feeder patterns	OFCE offered a range of 11 to 47 trainings to staff at 22 feeder patterns. The 222 trainings were online or in person.
Host a minimum of 2 Parent Portal feeder pattern registration events.	OFCE offered 4 Parent Portal registration events. Each occurred in a different feeder pattern

Source: Data provided by OFCE staff.

OFCE staff exceeded all seven goals for the program in 2016-17. As a result of their efforts, Dallas ISD students, parents, and staff members received ongoing training and support.

Recommendations

Continue supporting school personnel, parents, and community through a variety of programs.

OFCE staff expanded their program offerings, both in the type of program (i.e., Latino Family Literacy Project) and number of people involved in the programs. They should continue this pattern of growth.

Continue collecting attendance, school, and feeder pattern data.

OFCE staff collected data to measure specific goals and shared it with evaluators. They should continue this process to inform future evaluations and establish goals for the upcoming year.

For more information, please contact Program Evaluation at evaluation@dallasisd.org.

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