**CEJ Proposal to City Council for Transformative Parent Engagement**

Since the first days of this administration, Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Fariña have championed the importance of parent engagement in building school community and raising student achievement. The teachers union contract and restructuring of community school district offices help set the conditions for the flourishing of innovative, effective parent engagement across the city. However, parent engagement is still largely left up to school and district leadership to figure out on their own. There has not yet been a concerted effort to identify, implement and support research-based parent engagement models in city schools.

CEJ proposes that the City Council support a **Parent Engagement Innovation Fund** that schools in each Council district could apply to for implementation of model initiatives for transformative parent engagement. Grounded in the US Department of Education’s Dual-Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships, CEJ proposes that the Innovation Fund support a variety of research-proven programs that will set the bar for family-school partnerships and increase parent participation and student achievement by:

* Strengthening the relationships between families and school staff
* Actively developing families’ skills, knowledge and confidence as partners in advancing their children’s academic achievement
* Building the capacity of school staff to engage effectively with families

The **Parent Engagement Innovation Fund** could support programs such as:

1. **Parent-Teacher Home Visits (PTHV)**

* The Parent-Teacher Home Visits Program helps build relationships of mutual trust and respect between teachers and families through home visits in which parents and teachers come to see each other as equal partners.
* In teams of 2, teachers make 30-minute visits to families at their home, often during the summer before school starts. They ask questions to learn more about the family and the student and each person shares their hopes & dreams for the student.
* A follow-up visit is conducted in the spring to make plans for summer learning
* Teachers weekly time for parent engagement can be reconfigured and used for PTHV
* Results nationally include increased parent involvement, more positive behavioral outcomes, and increased student achievement
* *Proposed: 25 schools, $30,000 per school = $750,000*

<http://www.pthvp.org>

1. **Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT)**

* Academic Parent-Teacher Teams makes the most of parent-teacher conferences and teachers’ weekly time for parent engagement through a structured design that trains families and teachers to link home and school learning and improve communication
* Teachers hold three 75-minute classroom meetings each year to present performance data for the class and individual student, model activities for families, and help parents practice these strategies and share other learning techniques they use at home.
* Parents are also invited for one 30-minute individual parent-teacher conference to review student performance data and create action plans to increase learning.
* National data show academic gains from schools using APTT as well as higher participation rate in parent-teacher conferences, especially among fathers.
* *Proposed: 25 schools, $20,000 per school = $500,000*

<http://www.wested.org/service/academic-parent-teacher-teams-aptt-family-engagement-in-education/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YNsWrFiYfY

1. **Parent Education and Empowerment Partners (PEEPs)**

* PEEPs develops parents’ skills and strategies to support their students academically, and assists teachers, by placing parents in overcrowded classrooms to work with struggling students one-on-one.
* Parents receive weekly trainings on the school curriculum, teaching strategies for working with struggling students, and other information about the school system and then turnkey this information by offering four workshops a year to other parents
* After completing 100 hours, parents receive a small stipend and opportunities for college credit, leading towards certification as a paraprofessional or teacher
* Results from implementation in Illinois show increased parent involvement, improved parent confidence and competence supporting learning, and student progress
* *Proposed: 5 schools, $50,000 per school = $250,000*

<http://www.lsna.net/Issues-and-programs/Schools-and-Youth/Parent-Mentor-Program.html>

1. **Parent University**

* Comprehensive training program that develops skills, confidence and capacity of current and emerging parent leaders to impact their child’s learning and support school improvement. Could be located within Parent Resource Centers.
* Parents earn credits by participating in a variety of small and large group trainings
* Trainings funnel parents into a pipeline of leadership roles as mentors, advocates, trainers and leaders in school governance structures
* Teachers and school staff are trained in effective partnership with parents
* Graduation from Parent University gives parents access to advanced learning classes
* *Proposed: Curriculum, infrastructure and training series for 1,000 parents = $1,000,000*

<http://bpsfamilies.org/parentuniversity>

**Total Budget**

* $2.5 million would allow every City Council district to receive funding and support for one school to implement an innovative, research-based parent engagement model (plus training, materials and infrastructure), as well as for 20 parents from that district to participate in a leadership development workshop series (plus curriculum and materials).