

Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

Overview

The mission of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) is to proactively listen and respond to community concerns, while enlisting the participation of families and community stakeholders in dialogue pertaining to the quality of schools and improvement of educational choices for our children.

Family and community involvement is key to increasing and sustaining student achievement. This includes the support of local businesses, churches, park districts, community organizations, and other stakeholders within the community. FACE's strategy for ensuring that a diverse group of community stakeholders are involved in the process of strengthening the connections between our schools and our communities includes supporting the Community Action Councils (CACs), Local School Councils (LSCs), and engaging parents via five Parent Support Centers as well as through the outreach of our FACE managers within each network.



FACE Team Contact Information

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Community Action Councils

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Family and Community Engagement - Networks

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Faith-based Organizations

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Local School Council Relations

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Parent Support Center Hotline

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City of Chicago

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Barbara Byrd-Bennett

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<http://cps.edu/Pages/FACE.aspx>



Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

CREATING CONNECTIONS that CREATE CHANGE



Local School Council Relations

Local School Council Relations oversees and facilitates the operation of site-based management teams in each school, expanding all facets of communications with the schools, parents and the greater community. We seek to develop strong relationships with community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, agencies and city departments to advance safety both in and outside the school. We also provide systematic and comprehensive training to all local school council members, as well as citywide resources and support to all parents of CPS students.

Community Action Councils (CACs)

Community Action Councils, or CACs, consist of 25-30 voting members who are directly involved in developing a strategic plan for educational success within their communities. CAC members include parents; elected officials; faith-based institutions, health care and community-based organizations; Local School Council (LSC) members; business leaders; educators and school administrators; staff members from Chicago's Sister Agencies; community residents; and students.

There are nine CACs across Chicago. Each works to empower the community they serve to lead the improvement of local quality education. CACs are in the following neighborhoods: Austin, Bronzeville, Englewood, Humboldt Park-East, Humboldt Park-West, South Shore, Far South Side-Pullman/Roseland, Lawndale and Hyde Park.



FACE Managers

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Managers support the Chief of Schools and the Family and Community Engagement Officer by providing community outreach and training support. FACE managers create network working groups made up of LSC, parents, community organizations, and other key stakeholders to develop a dialogue around school options that could improve school performance in their area.

The managers collaborate with the Chief of Schools to ensure parents and community members are informed about the status and progress of schools in their respective neighborhoods and provide proactive outreach to parents, community organizations, and stakeholders (LSCs, Aldermen, etc.) on matters related to school operations. FACE managers are actively involved with the schools in their network, working with the principals and staff to enhance parent engagement and leadership development in the schools, while assisting to bring vital resources to the schools.

Faith-Based Organizations

OVERVIEW

The Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI), under the leadership of Rev. Renaldo Kyles is committed and dedicated to bridging the gaps between Chicago Public Schools and the faith based communities of Chicago. Our mission is to establish effective partnerships with faith based institutions city-wide. We understand the role of faith based leaders as valuable resources, and know that these partnerships actively engage the community and contributes towards the success of our students and schools. OFBI has several programmatic branches: Safe Haven (more details below), Crisis Training, The Church Adopt-a-School, and Capacity Building Training.

Safe Haven Overview

The Safe Haven program is housed in the Office of Faith Based Initiatives of Chicago Public Schools and provides a "safe haven" for CPS students that is a reliable and no cost alternative place for students and parents during critical high violence periods in the city. The mission of Safe Haven to eradicate bullying and instill practices to combat youth violence and to engage students in workshops that focus on positive conflict resolutions, anger management, anti-bullying, and anti-violence.

Safe Haven is a partnership between CPS and the Faith Community. There are currently over 120 established partners. The program run in four cycles: Winter Break (December/January); Afterschool (January-May); Spring Break (April); Summer Break (end of June-August). The program serves over 12,000 students annually.

