

Baylor College of Medicine Academy at James D. Ryan MS Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Mission Statement

The mission of BCMA at Ryan is to collaborate with families to create a climate that nurtures respect, celebrates diversity and expects excellence through high achievements from all our students. Our vision is to foster a unique transitional environment that empowers all our students for the choices and challenges of the 21st century.

Statement of Purpose

BCMA at Ryan is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every student in our school. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with our parents and families, whom are the children's first teachers, in order to continue building and developing on the foundation already established. Support for the students and school is extremely critical to our shared success. The purpose of parent and family engagement is to promote a school-home partnership that will help all students on campus succeed. It is our belief that everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. We recognize that some students may need extra assistance available through the Title I program, as well as other programs, to reach these common goals:

1. BCMA at Ryan will involve parents in the continuous process to review and assess improvements for the school. BCMA at Ryan intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I Program and Parental Involvement Policy. The goal is school-home partnerships that will help all students in the school succeed. Parents and school personnel will meet to continuously build up our Parental Involvement Policy.
2. BCMA at Ryan will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary (e.g., parent-teacher conferences, progress and report cards) along with reasonable access to staff to assist in the development, planning and implementation of effective parent engagement activities that improve student academic achievements and school performance.
3. BCMA at Ryan wants to foster a relationship for strong parent involvement. In order to build a dynamic school-home partnership, BCMA at Ryan will provide the following:
 - a. Annual letters where parents are informed about the requirements of the school's Title I Program and are given an opportunity to become involved with their children's education.
 - b. Parent meetings will be held throughout the year (dates TBD and disseminated in a timely manner). All parents of participating students are invited and greatly encouraged to attend. Communications with parents will be in a format and a language they can understand.
 - c. A description and explanation of the curriculum used; the form of academic assessments used to measure student progress (District-level and Campus-based assessments, TELPAS Test, etc.); and proficiency levels students are expected to meet will be provided to parents through a letter and a calendar.

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- d. Assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic content standards, known as the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), which will be communicated through school-wide meetings and a letter.
 - e. A School-Parent Compact designed by parents and school staff that outlines the responsibility of parents, campus staff and students for improvements in student academic achievement.
 - f. Opportunities for parents to assist with reviewing, planning and making suggestions to improve the Title I Program, as well as the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact.
 - g. Appropriate parent participation opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child's education. In addition, parents may attend the scheduled monthly meetings. During these meetings parents are afforded the opportunity to hear speakers who may inform them on topics such as computer technology and literacy training.
 - h. Information relating to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner. Information will be given to parents via the school's website and weekly instructional agendas sent from the school, the PTO and/or the classroom teacher. In addition, the school marquee will be used to inform parents of dates of programs, meetings and other activities. Parents are encouraged to contact the Title I Coordinator and PTO for parental involvement support and activities.
 - i. Parents and community members are always welcome at our school. By using their suggestions to improve our school and by working together, all students will become successful learners.
4. BCMA at Ryan, with the involvement of parents, will conduct an annual evaluation of content and effectiveness of the District Title I Parental Involvement Policy with regard to:
- a. Improving the academic quality of the Title I, Part A school; and
 - b. Identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities of the Title I, Part A school

Emphasis on parents who are:

- Economically disadvantaged
- Disabled
- Limited English proficiency
- Limited literacy
- Of any ethnic background

School personnel and parents will evaluate the parental involvement activities and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the findings of such evaluation and recommendations in designing strategies for more effective parental involvement and revising, if necessary.

5. BCMA at Ryan will involve parents in the activities of the Title I Program. Timely communications and an inclusive family friendly atmosphere will enhance parent involvement in

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the activities of the Title I Program. Parents will receive information in a language they can understand that will detail the activities of the school and will be asked to participate. School may use communication strategies such as personal contact, calendars and letters sent home with students and call-outs to invite parents to participate in the school's activities. Language interpreters will be provided, if needed.

Shared responsibilities:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction to all students in a supportive and effective learning environment that will enable them to master the State of Texas of Academic Readiness (STAAR).
- Build stronger ties between parents and school that will foster an environment whereas parents and teachers are equal partners in the learning process.
- As the parent of a child at BCMAR's Title I Program, parents accept responsibility for supporting their child's learning by monitoring school attendance, homework completion, television watching and extracurricular/leisure activities and use of technology. Parents will also participate in parent training and decision making opportunities along with volunteering, when possible.

Parents and community members are always welcomed to our school community. By working together and making suggestions to improve our schools, ALL students are successful learners.