

**(ATTACHMENT 1) WINTER 2016-2017 REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DISTRICT FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Supporting Family Leadership**

**District Advisory Council Meeting**

Milwaukee Public Schools first established the District Advisory Council (DAC) as a means to ensure the opportunity for parents of all students to share their ideas on the needs of children, assist in the planning and operation of Title I programs for children, and participate in evaluating the success of Title I efforts. Today, the DAC is a diverse group of families committed to lending their voice to current issues faced by Milwaukee Public Schools.

The DAC met each month of this reporting period to discuss topics such as the school calendar change, the school governance council policy, school budgets and student clubs and organizations. The DAC has a new format this year where each month an informational item is shared so that representatives can take that information back to their school for feedback. Then, the following month that informational item becomes the discussion item and representatives are able to speak on behalf of their school.

| <b>Month:</b> | <b>Schools Officially Represented:</b> | <b>Total Attendance:</b> |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| October       | 34 schools, 42 representatives         | 54 schools, 87 attendees |
| November      | 46 schools, 59 representatives         | 50 schools, 81 attendees |
| December      | 46 schools, 61 representatives         | 54 schools, 86 attendees |
| January       | 41 schools, 48 representatives         | 47 schools, 69 attendees |
| February      | 32 schools, 47 representatives         | 35 schools, 67 attendees |
| March         | 39 schools, 47 representatives         | 46 schools, 66 attendees |

**MPS Family Forums**

Family Forums are full-day events that encourage learning, discussion and collaboration between MPS staff and families. These events are planned in partnership with family representatives and community partners and will have a variety of workshops geared toward both families and staff.

| <b>Event:</b>                                 | <b>Adults</b> | <b>Children</b> | <b>Total Attendance:</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| October Family Forum:<br>Family Leadership    | 58 adults     | 24 children     | 82 attendees             |
| November Family Forum:<br>Foro Latino         | 291 adults    | 125 children    | 416 attendees            |
| February Family Forum:<br>Health and Wellness | 46 adults     | 30 children     | 76 attendees             |

Our remaining Family Forums for this year have been selected and are all currently being planned in collaboration with district families and community partners:

- Special Education Forum – March 11, 2017 at Marshall High School, 8:30am-1:00pm
- Fatherhood Forum – March 25, 2017 at MACL, 8:00am-2:00pm
- Bilingual & ESL Forum – May 6, 2017 at Pulaski High School, 8:00am-1:30pm

More information at: [www.mpsmke.com/familyforum](http://www.mpsmke.com/familyforum)

## **Launching the MPS Family Empowerment University (FEU)**

### **Special Education Leadership Institute**

This year, MPS worked in partnership with the Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative (WSPEI) and WI FACETS to put together a six part institute for families of students with special needs. Each lesson focused on important concepts for families to partner with schools on their students' learning:

- Navigating the Special Education Maze
- IEPs: Understanding the Process
- Transition Planning for Youth and Families
- Working Together to Create Agreements
- Finding the Leader in You
- Community Resources

This institute was hosted by Milwaukee Marshall High School and Doerfler Elementary School, and had over 30 families participate in this pilot. The final session of this institute, Community Resources, brought together families that participated in both sites as well as other families in the community for a Special Education Resource Fair and Breakfast with Santa. Over 160 parents and children attended this family friendly event and were able to eat a delicious pancake breakfast, connect with over 25 different resource and service agencies as well as take a family holiday picture.

## **Connecting Families to Community Resources**

### **Milwaukee Achiever Adult Learning Labs**

MPS has a valuable partnership with Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services to provide services that support increasing educational attainment for MPS families. We currently have two adult learning labs, one at North Division and the other at South Division, that are open Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm to support families in their educational goals. MPS families have access to the following educational services free of charge:

- English Language Learning/ESL
- GED (English and Spanish) Preparation and Testing
- Citizenship
- Computer Literacy
- Adult Basic Education
- High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED or 5.09 program)
- Homework Help/Tutoring
- Workplace Readiness Workshops
- Financial Literacy