

The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence
Section 7 - Parent and Community Involvement

1.7 Parent and Community Involvement

14 *Del. C.* §§ 512(1) and (6),

Parent Involvement

1. Describe the role of any parents/guardians and community members involved in developing the proposed school.

Parents and community members play a vital role in developing the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence. From the beginning, BASSE has made it a point to include community and parent input through surveys, webinars, and engagement at events. Our advisory board comprises interested community members who provide feedback on the school's design and ask critical questions that are invaluable in the school development process. For example, several parents and students came out to support BASSE in a promotional video we produced to advertise the school to the community. Their comments during this process have been incorporated into our dynamic community engagement plan.

2. Describe the outreach that you have conducted to engage prospective parents/guardians in the area you are proposing to serve.

In the fall of 2019, BASSE hosted three community focus groups across Sussex County, in Georgetown, Milford, and Seaford. These sessions provided information to prospective parents/guardians as well as to the community. We also elicited feedback from our participants about aspects of the school. Participation was enthusiastic, and group members were eager to be involved, in some instances offering specific resources to the school for students.

In March and April of 2020, amid the coronavirus pandemic, we hosted five webinars to outline the school's vision, mission, and development. These events aimed to engage community members and families in giving feedback and providing comments on the school's proposed design. On average, we had 25 participants each session, and we received necessary input from them on the direction of the school that we have since incorporated. These webinars are currently available on the BASSE website, and the slides are available [here](#).

In the summer of 2020, our Community Engagement Committee has designed and facilitated events such as our "Back to School Supply Drive," where not only were we able to give back to the community before our school opens, but we were also able to facilitate conversations with families and community members about the school and its vision.

In December of 2020 and through the winter and spring of 2021, BASSE held several parent-focused webinars (on average, bi-monthly) to receive feedback and input from parents and field any questions they may have. The parent webinar presentation can be found [here](#). We also offered office hours with our staff members.

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Due to the coronavirus pandemic and its accompanying restrictions, community engagement looked very different for BASSE beginning in 2020. To further support our virtual engagement we also participated in various organizations' virtual community events, such as Peace Week Delaware and a Book Talk co-sponsored with the Lewes Public Library.

In the fall of 2020, BASSE also hired a Community Outreach Coordinator through a partnership with Public Allies. This partnership was renewed in August of 2021. Our current Community Outreach Coordinator is committed to improving the lives and outcomes of Delaware students through her work at BASSE and beyond when she earns her bachelor's degree in social work. The Community Outreach Coordinator's primary role is to engage parents and community members in BASSE's development process through events and social media.

In the summer and fall of 2021, BASSE began to engage in person outreach events, such as supporting a backpack giveaway in Seaford in August, hosting a fall themed event in Laurel in October, and tabling at a local movie theater in November and December.

BASSE also provides information and updates about the school on our website, basseinc.org. The site houses information about past public events, presentations, and public media engagement. We are currently working with Blue Blaze, a Delaware based communications firm, to support our website and communications with parents and the community at-large. In August 2021, we began to flesh out a strategic marketing plan that was kicked-off in late October of 2021 and is planned to continue during the recruitment and enrollment phase of the school's development

Finally, Board, Staff, and Advisory Board members and supporters are spreading the word about the school and eliciting ideas and feedback from prospective parents/guardians during their personal and professional interactions. The staff, recently hired in November 2021, has already planned strategic engagement events beginning January of 2022 to continue to build momentum as we move towards opening.

3. Describe how you will engage parents/guardians in the life of the school, in addition to any proposed governance roles described above. Describe how the school will build family-school partnerships to strengthen support for learning and encourage parental involvement. Describe any commitments or volunteer activities that the school will offer to parents.

BASSE knows that our students' caregivers and families are the foundation for our students' eventual success in school and life. That being said, it is essential that they are engaged throughout the life of our school.

BASSE plans to kick off the school year with home visits and a Back-to-School social event to foster a positive relationship between the school staff and the families we serve. We plan to have once-a-quarter student-led conferences where students and teachers can update the families about students' progress and challenges so that families can be included in the solution creation process. Our goal is to be flexible in how and when we conduct these conferences so

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that all caregivers can be engaged regardless of their work schedules. We also want to host bi-yearly weekend events to give caregivers another touchpoint to be involved and to continue to foster a strong relationship amongst the school community.

BASSE also plans to provide opportunities for caregivers to volunteer through a parent organization, in classrooms, and as mentors. Additionally, through our community school model, we also plan to support families in their child's development by providing workshops to help them access aspects of their student's progress, support the continued growth of the school by hosting feedback workshops throughout the year, and support their own development by providing potential services to them through our community and strategic partnerships, such as workshops on how they can access resources or English Language Learning classes.

Caregivers are considered full partners in the life of the school. Though listed above are several ways we plan to engage parents, we also understand that we must be flexible in our approach. We will continuously seek input from our families to better support and include them in their students' academic lives.

Community Involvement

1. Describe how community members are represented on your Board and in your Founding Group?

The founding and current board members are made up largely of community members representing all three counties of the state. Over half of our board comprises Sussex County residents, with nearly 70% of the board having roots in Sussex County. Additionally, our sizeable advisory board is composed of a majority of Sussex County residents.

2. Identify what community resources will be available to students and parents. Describe any partnerships that the school will have with community organizations, businesses, or other educational institutions. Specify the nature, purposes, terms, and scope of services of any such partnerships.

Partnerships are one of the key components of the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence educational model.

Name of Partner	Type of Partner	Description of Partnership	Who Benefits from this Partnership?
Delaware Historical Society	Community	Will work with students to develop exhibits that showcase Sussex county history Will provide students will additional outside of school education opportunities	Students Families Community Members Teachers

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Jounce Partners	Strategic	Provides a fellowship to hire and develop our Dean of Academic Excellence before the school's opening Will potentially provide professional development to our Dean of Academic Excellence and instructional staff	Students Teachers
Relay Graduate School of Education	Strategic	Will potentially provide professional development to our instructional staff Will provide a pipeline for future educators and school staff	Teachers Students Community Members
Delaware Guidance Services	Strategic	Will provide mental health services for all levels of school life Will provide service-learning opportunities for students interested in the mental health profession	Students Families Teachers
Public Allies	Strategic	Provides additional capacity to the organization Will potentially provide service-learning opportunities for students interested in advocacy or nonprofits.	Board School Staff Students
Delaware Public Libraries	Strategic	Will provide outside of school educational opportunities for students Will provide professional development for instructional staff Will provide resources for families Will potentially provide service-learning opportunities for students	Students Families Teachers
Delaware State University Teacher Prep Program	Strategic	Will provide a pipeline for future educators and school staff	Teachers Students
Delaware Technical Community College	Strategic	Will provide instructional opportunities for students Providing building for the schools opening	Students Board Families Community Members
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Community	Supports community and fundraising events Will provide programming for interested students	Students Families Community Members Board

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3. Describe any fee-based or in-kind commitments from community organizations or individuals that would enrich student-learning opportunities.

Not Applicable

4. Provide, as **Attachment 17**, evidence of support from community partners, which may include letters of intent/commitment, memoranda of understanding, and/or contracts, and should specify the resources to be committed or contributed from the partner, as applicable.