Baltimore Learns Every Day!
It’s Not Just a Game – It’s a Movement

IEL Family and Community Engagement Conference
June 22–24, 2017
#bmorelearns
Remember When ... ?
Today’s Agenda

• Welcome/Office of Engagement Overview
• How the Movement Began
• Partnerships: The Collaboration that Made it Happen
• Implementation in Baltimore City Schools
• Voices from the Movement
Objectives

This workshop will provide participants with:

• Strategies to strengthen home-school collaboration and extend learning beyond the classroom
• Ways to empower parents and family members to become equal partners in the education of their children
• Innovative, culturally relevant, and community-led learning campaigns
• Grassroots collaboration strategies with school communities and external partners
Our Guiding Principles

Our movement would not be possible without ...

COMMUNITY  RESILIENCY  POWER
BELONGING  ENGAGEMENT  VOICE
PRIDE  HOPE  TRUST
City Schools believes that **authentic engagement** is critical for improving the academic achievement of our students. Authentic engagement is rooted in: genuine, collaborative, and trusting relationships; action-oriented responses to address unique community needs; and intentional efforts to ensure equity for all stakeholders.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL**

Shifting from centralized supports and compliance to a framework of capacity building, tailored supports, and comprehensive training around family and community engagement.

**COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT**

Reforming schools from the ground up by organizing neighborhoods, leveraging community partnerships, and creating a culture of advocacy through transparency, two-way communication, and local ownership.

**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Working to ensure that all schools fall along the community school continuum and providing tiered supports and education on the strategy to all stakeholders.
How the Movement Began

Spring 2015

• Death of Freddie Gray and the resulting Baltimore Uprising

• Call to Action in the Baltimore education community
Thinking About Your Own Communities

What is a challenge that has occurred or currently exists in your community that could be a catalyst for community building?
Write it on your handout.

When you’ve written a challenge you’d like to tackle, stand by the guiding principle poster that you feel is lacking in your community.
How the Movement Continued

Summer 2015 – Fall 2016
• Conversations with partners and Lakeshore Learning
• Development of the Game
What is Baltimore Learns Every Day?

“It’s not just a game; it’s a movement”

• Developed to:
  • Strengthen parent-teacher collaboration
  • Empower families to become equal partners in their children’s education
  • Support families in learning at home through play
  • Help families understand the connection between early literacy and later success
  • Encourage learning in a fun and culturally-relevant context

• The game is accompanied by a children’s book, *Baltimore Kids Have Bright Futures!*
The Collaboration that Made it Happen

A coalition of partners from across the city made the launch party possible and continue to support the movement:

- Black Girls Vote
- Lakeshore Learning
- Family League of Baltimore City
- Baltimore Education Coalition
- Strong City Baltimore
- Port Discovery Children’s Museum
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Curators of Hip Hop
- The BeMore Group
- Center for Urban Families
- Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance
- Campaign for Grade Level Reading
- Enoch Pratt Public Libraries
BELONGING
The Launch Party

Approximately 300 families came to play, learn, and celebrate the launch of the Baltimore Learns Every Day! board game!

Every family that attended got a copy of the game and book to take home.
The Launch Party
ENGAGEMENT
Implementation in City Schools

Every Priority School with students in Grades K-5 received enough games to give out to each family.

Each school also received the following:
- Supports from the Office of Engagement
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Communications Strategy
BLE Implementation Toolkit

Get Your Copy of the Baltimore Learns Every Day! Board Game!

Tips for Families
- Set a goal: How many minutes do you want to play the game each week? Work with your child to make sure you are meeting your goal.
- Monitor your child's progress:
  - Identify the skills that are important:
  - Identify the skills that are challenging:
- Offer your child a challenge:
  - Start with one skill:
  - Personalize the game:
- Identify your child's interests:
- Set achievable goals:
- Follow through:

Tips for Teachers:
- Think of all the places you can play the game:
- Bring the game to life:
- Get students involved:
- Use the game to identify student growth:
- Use the game as a way to encourage students to learn:
- Use the game to reinforce the importance of the skills:

Keep your eye out for announcements about where and when you can pick up your family's game!
Evaluating the Strategy

To ensure that the game is more than just a give-away for families, the Office of Engagement is conducting ongoing reflection and data collection.

Sources of data include:
- Evaluations of Trainings (Fall)
- An implementation survey to school-based FCE Leads (Winter)
- An experience survey to parents (Spring)
- An experience survey to teachers (Spring)
## Evaluating the Strategy

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<th>School</th>
<th>Family Fun Night</th>
<th>Parent Meeting</th>
<th>Literacy-Themed Family Night</th>
<th>Pick-up Table</th>
<th>Classroom Teachers</th>
<th>Other Engagement Event</th>
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It’s Your Turn to Play!

Play with your neighbors and see what the Baltimore Learns Every Day! movement is all about!

• How does the game promote engagement?

• What are some of the concepts or skills covered?
Harlem Park BLE Night
Voices of the Movement

Jessica Lawrence
Title I Analyst
Baltimore City Public Schools

Denisha Logan
Principal
Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School

Tenne’ Thrower
Community School Coordinator
Barclay Elementary/Middle School
Our Framework to Support Learning Beyond the Classroom

- Identify a Core Team!
- Plan and Get Feedback From Your Community!
- Collaborate & Align Academic Goals and Community Needs!
- Tap Into Funds of Knowledge!
- Execute Communication & Outreach Plan!
- ACTIVATE!
What is Your Movement?

How will you use your community’s challenges as a catalyst for unity, equity, and change?

Share a picture on social media of your team next to your guiding principle!

#whatsyourmovement #bmorelearns #fce2017
Questions?

Thank you for participating!
Please reach out to us if you would like more information!

www.baltimorelearnseveryday.org
#bmorelearns

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