

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**EXHIBIT
F-1**

Meeting Date: February 14, 2012

Item Title: Presentation on PTA School Smarts Academy Implementation
in the Alameda Unified School District

Item Type: Information

BACKGROUND: AUSD's Guiding Principle #4 states "Parental involvement and community engagement are integral to the success of all students." The aim of the PTA School Smarts Academy is to achieve this AUSD goal by actively structuring parent engagement through coordinating school-site delivery of Parent Engagement Nights and a seven-session School Smarts Academy that actively engages and empowers parents/guardians in their children's educational experience. Last year AUSD was one of the first districts in the state to pilot this research-validated family engagement curriculum. This year AUSD is fortunate to be able to extend from the three schools where the program was piloted last year to all elementary schools across the district. Tonight is a presentation by California PTA leadership highlighting their partnership with Alameda Unified School District.

FISCAL ANALYSIS: \$49,500.

- General Fund
- Categorical Funds
- Parcel Tax Funds

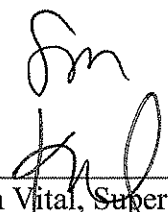
\$ _____ [Savings] [Cost]
_____ Department Budget

RECOMMENDATION: This item is presented for information only.

AUSD Guiding Principle: 4. Parental involvement and community engagement are integral to the success of all students.

Submitted by: Sean McPhetridge, Assistant Superintendent

Approved for Submission to Board of Education


Kirsten Vital, Superintendent



**Presentation to the Alameda Unified School District
Board of Trustees
February 14, 2012**

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school smarts
PARENT ENGAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM

A partnership between the Alameda
Unified School District and the PTA, with
support from the William and Flora
Hewlett Foundation

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What is School Smarts?

School Smarts is a research-based program designed by the California State PTA to:

- ◆ Foster parent engagement in schools
- ◆ Support parents as children's first teachers
- ◆ Be a catalyst for inclusiveness at schools
- ◆ Develop future parent leaders
- ◆ Increase the number of parent volunteers
- ◆ Encourage parents to advocate for a complete and quality education that includes the arts.



What is School Smarts?

School Smarts consists of a campus-wide Parent Engagement Event and a 7-night Parent Academy.

Focused on elementary schools

Inclusive

Highly relevant, interactive curriculum developed by educators and PTA leaders



Parent Engagement Event



A school-wide parent engagement event designed to inform parents about their own school, how to help maximize success for their children, and about the big picture of how the education system works.



Each event is customized to fit the needs of the school.

Includes an art activity, dinner, childcare, and professionally developed materials.

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School Smarts Parent Academy



Training format: 7 sessions, 2 hours each

Class size: approximately 15-35 parents

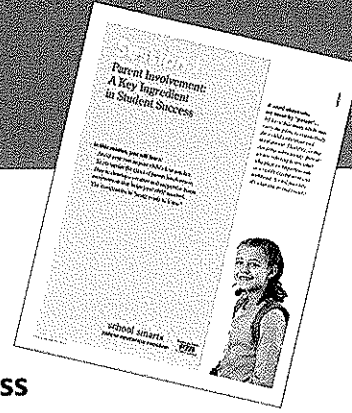
Led by local facilitators who are trained adult educators

Sessions are interactive, including professionally developed curriculum, multimedia presentations of material, individual and group activities, arts activities, homework assignments and discussion

Sessions conducted in Spanish and English with Cantonese and Arabic interpretation, either single language classrooms or multiple languages, using translation headsets.

Childcare and refreshments provided each night.

School Smarts Parent Academy



What do parents learn in each session?

I. Parent involvement:

A key ingredient in student and school success

II. Preparing for a lifetime of learning

III. Understanding our education system

IV. Understanding our school

V. Becoming an effective communicator

VI. Standing up for a quality education

VII. Taking action/Celebration

Our Beginnings

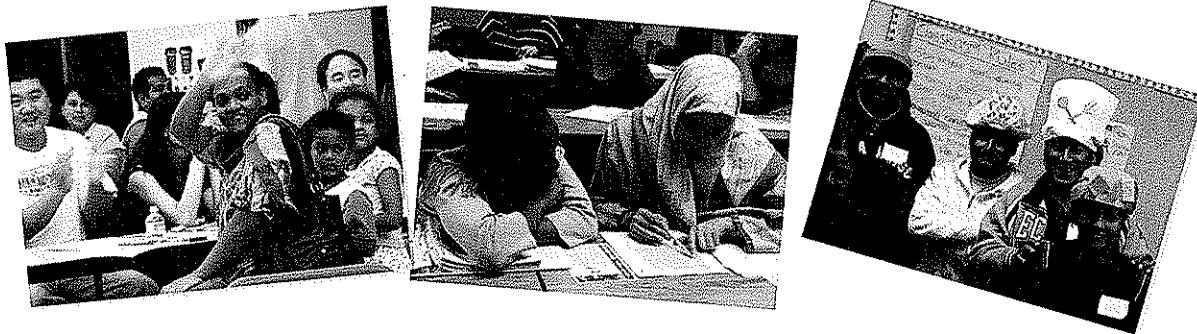
- **School Smarts was first piloted during the 2010 -2011 school year through a grant to the California State PTA from the Hewlett Foundation.**
- **Alameda USD was among one of only four school districts in the state chosen as a pilot site.**
- **Last year, we successfully piloted School Smarts at:**
 - **Bay Farm Elementary**
 - **Ruby Bridges Elementary**
 - **Washington Elementary**

Over 75 Alameda parents graduated from School Smarts last year!

Where is School Smarts now?

- **School Smarts is now in its second pilot year.**
- **The program is being offered in 23 schools in four school districts throughout the state, including all 10 Alameda USD elementary schools.**
- **All 10 pilot school sites in Alameda are receiving a customized parent engagement event, 7-session academy, food, childcare, interpretation, professionally developed handouts and curriculum, trained facilitators and support from our School Smarts pilot team.**

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What are the benefits of School Smarts?

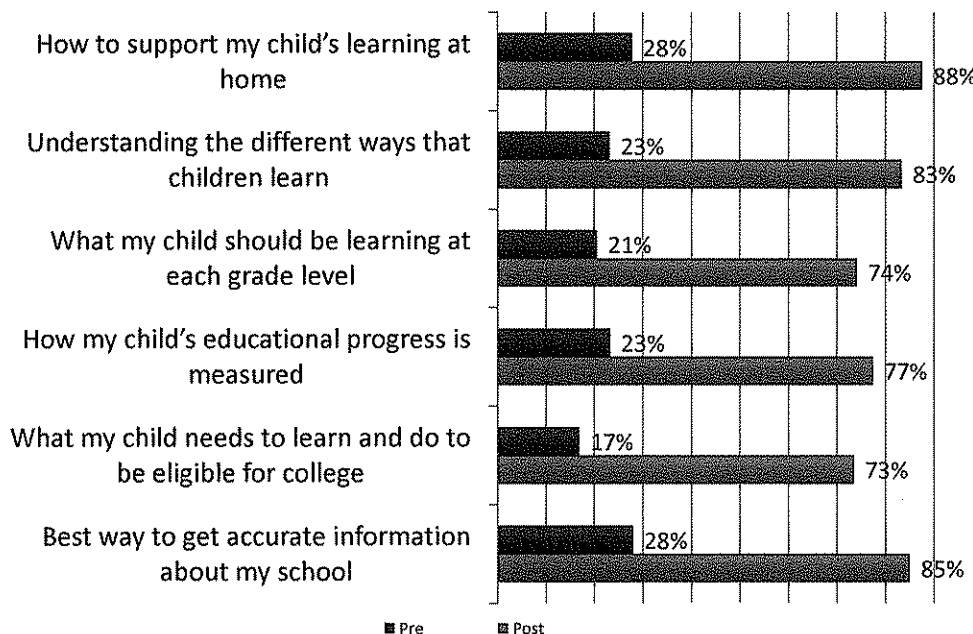
- **Supports AUSD's guiding principle that "parental involvement and community engagement are integral to the success of all students"**
- **Helps parents build a stronger foundation for supporting their own children and effectively engaging with their schools.**
- **Builds local site capacity**
- **Creates parent leaders who will actively promote a quality education in their schools and beyond.**

Findings from an independent evaluation showed very positive results

- Participation in the School Smarts academy helped parents gain a better understanding of the fundamentals of the K–12 school system and what they can do at home to support their children.
- Generally, parents indicated a greater willingness and desire to attend school-wide meetings and began demonstrating leadership skills through increased participation, involvement, and advocacy.
- The School Smarts academy helped foster a sense of community among parents from diverse backgrounds.
- Parents also appreciated meeting school leaders and their school principal as part of the program. They began to feel more secure in their relationships with school personnel, and they gained confidence and felt more comfortable in approaching them whenever they had any questions.
- The complete evaluation of the School Smarts pilot program may be accessed online at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs-smarts/parents-for-arts.cfm>.

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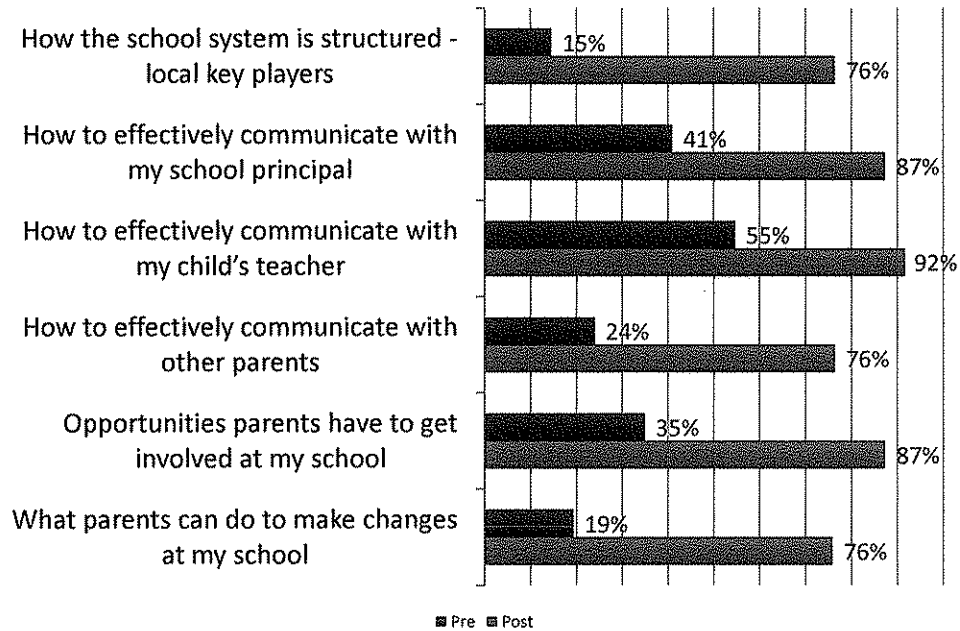
Percent of parents who said “I feel very well informed” in pre and post Academy surveys



n= pre:325, post:304

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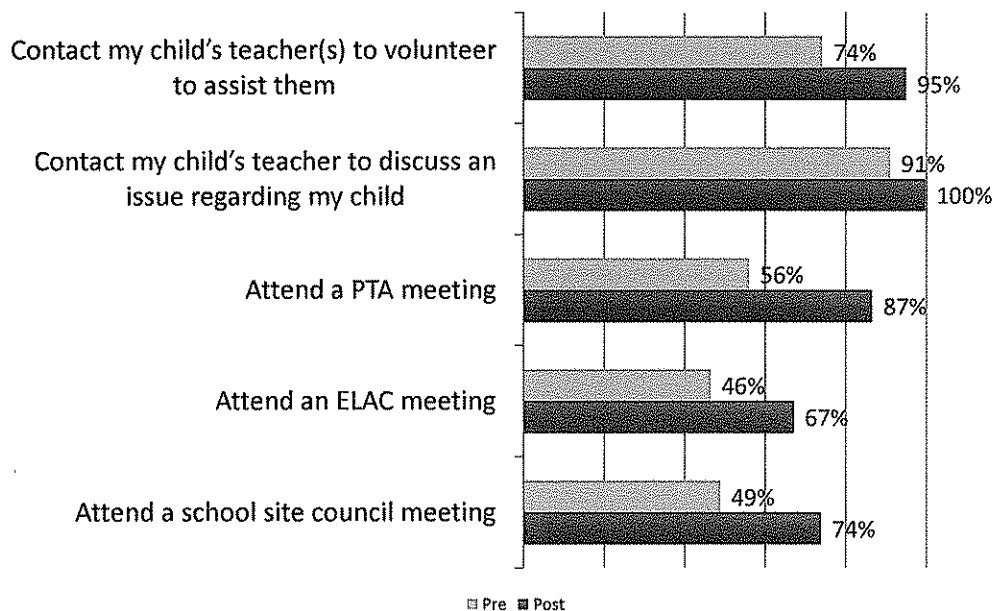
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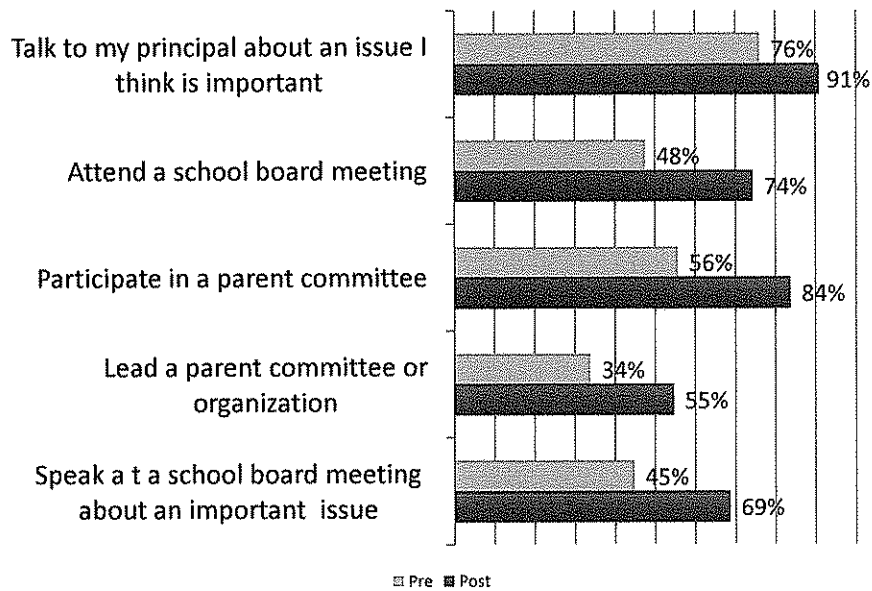
Percent of parents who said they were “definitely or very likely” to take specific actions



n= pre:325, post:304

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Percent of parents who said they “definitely or very likely” take specific actions



n= pre:325, post:304

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Real stories: The best data



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Contact Information

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