**Grand Partners in Education**

A Project of: Generations United, Grandfamilies PTSA, and the Center for Law and Education  
In Collaboration with: Baltimore City Public Schools & Glenmount Elementary/Middle School  
Supported by: The W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**What we will do:** This two-year project will create a national model for transforming family-school partnerships to help secure key elements of quality education for children. To create the model, we will build on existing strengths of Glenmount, Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPCS), and families and will engage grandparents who are raising children as leaders working with other families. The project will tap powerful but underused policy handles in Title I, the biggest federal education program. (Under Title I, “parents” includes grandparents raising children.) Baltimore City Public School’s history of award winning recognition for parent engagement makes it a premier location for piloting this model project.

**How we will do it:**

**At Glenmount Elementary/Middle School:**

- **Stage 1:** Grandparent and other family leaders and the school will agree on the best method for the school and its parents to work together to "jointly" develop a new parent involvement policy required by Title I. [May – June/July 2014]

- **Stage 2:** The parents and the school will then use that method to jointly develop the new parent involvement policy. The policy will spell out how each element of parent involvement required by Title I will be carried out at Glenmount so that parents are full, informed, equal partners, based on careful analysis of current family engagement practice and barriers to improving it. This includes requirements for ongoing parent training, information, and other assistance in order for them to be full and informed partners in the school, and for evaluating the success of the involvement policy. It will also spell out how parents will be involved in various decisions, including how the parents and the school will jointly develop the school’s program plan. Once the new involvement policy is developed, it will be submitted to the parents of the school for their approval. [July - December 2014]

- **Stage 3:** Using the process agreed upon in the parent involvement policy, parents and school will then jointly develop a new school program plan. The school plan will spell out how various required elements of high-quality education will be provided to all children, including accelerated and enriched curriculum, effective teaching methods, and timely, effective help whenever individual students have difficulty mastering any of the learning standards, based on careful analysis of existing practice in each area. Meanwhile, the new parent involvement policy (Stage 2) is being implemented. [January - September 2015]

- **Stage 4:** Implementation and assessment of the parent involvement policy and the program plan. [October 2015 - March 2016]

At each stage, we will provide participants with training, tools, and other assistance they need to be full, informed, and empowered partners in the work.

**Citywide**, the project will:

- Engage and help interested families and schools beyond Glenmount.  
- Work with BCPS on Title I district-level requirements for helping schools carry out these tasks and for its parallel district-level parent involvement policy and program plan.
What we will achieve together:

➢ The engagement of a new multi-generational group of family leaders who can inspire other families to elevate their voices and perspectives to promote improvements in their children’s education.

➢ A new vision for family engagement and an effective framework for families to develop both the capacity and authority to work with schools as full partners to ensure the quality of their children’s education.

➢ A strengthened educational program at Glenmount -- created by a schoolwide learning community that has a shared vision of authentic achievement for all students and is capable of putting in place and improving the elements of high-quality education necessary to make that vision a reality.

➢ A model of family engagement and school improvement for Title I schools across the city, state, and nation.

Generations United
For nearly three decades, Generations United has been the catalyst for policies and practices stimulating cooperation and collaboration among generations, evoking the vibrancy, energy and sheer productivity that result when people of all ages come together. We believe that we can only be successful in the face of our complex future if generational diversity is regarded as a national asset and fully leveraged. Generations United’s National Center on Grandfamilies is a leading voice for issues affecting families headed by grandparents or other relatives. www.gu.org

The Center for Law and Education (CLE)
With the mission of making the right of every child to high-quality education a reality, particularly those living in poverty, CLE has worked for over forty years to develop and effectively implement policies that advance that right and embody principles of quality, equity, and empowered family engagement – including the federal Title I policies addressed by this project. www.cleweb.org

Grandfamilies Parent Teacher Student Association (GPTSA)
As an affiliate, of the largest volunteer child advocacy group in the nation; GPTSA has an obligation to children and our society to provide families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of the well being of all children by providing the tools and exchange of knowledge for parents/grandparents and teachers to help all children succeed in school and …in life. Under the leadership of Annette Saunders, Grandfamily Matters LLC, the GPTSA links its members from across the city, providing necessary services and supports that enable members to get connected, with opportunities to meet and network with other parents, teachers and school administrators. www.grandfamiliesptsa.org

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