

Board Message - Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate (BRMA)

Greetings. This message is intended to address confusion regarding district plans for our Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate (BRMA) program.

The district and board support and believe in the importance of the Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate Program. We also see much potential in improving upon, and expanding, the reach of the program. The program is not being dismantled. Indeed, the district and board are working to grow the services provided by the Blue Ribbon program (including the Youth Leadership Institute, Parent University, MSAN, and more). The program has helped hundreds of students go to college, and we recognize that more students can benefit from the opportunities provided by the program.

We are excited that our Blue Ribbon Mentor-Advocate program will be situated in our newly organized Office of Equity and Inclusion with some BRMA personnel located in our schools to strengthen outreach. These structural changes will provide necessary leadership to continue to explore growth opportunities for our BRMA students, mentors and families.

To highlight some of the key areas of focus going forward:

- Broaden outreach to elementary school families and increase number of students who are provided mentors served to include middle school and high school students;
- Increase diversity of mentors and provide high quality training to equip them to support students;
- Deliver enrichment opportunities and academic support for a higher number of BRMA students.

District administration and our board recognize the importance of communicating plans as BRMA continues to be an important part of our toolkit for improving outcomes for all students. We are grateful for the raised awareness and story sharing related to students. We look forward to continued conversation with community members.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education