

## **Dallas ISD Single Gender Male Leadership Academies**

**Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy** - The Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy is a mission driven community of educators, students and community members whose sole purpose is to establish and maintain a culture of excellence in academic achievement. Their mission is to develop young men into impactful leaders through the development of their intellectual, moral, physical, social and emotional skills for the global society of tomorrow. The all - male magnet campus focuses on Leadership Development with Accelerated Math and Science courses. Students receive instruction within a non-traditional technology infused setting inclusive of Extended School Days, Saturday Academies, Summer Camps and Non - traditional sports: Lacrosse, Rowing, Golf and foreign languages such as Latin, Spanish and Mandarin. During the past 5 ½ years the campus has grown from 169 young men in grades 6 – 9 to over 390 young men in grades 6 – 12. The culture of brotherhood, respect and comradery is established through our daily Lyceum and House System. During Lyceum, students social and emotional skills are developed through a study on the 16 Habits of Mind, Book Studies and Speakers Bureau. Students are active participants during the discussions and encouraged to share and support each other. Within the House System, students compete for their academic performance, behavior, community service efforts and parental participation. The intrinsic rewards for this competitive fraternal system is the understanding of shared responsibility and accountability each brother plays within the entire school community and their families. Students receive a holistic education experience purposely created to prepare the young men to become better Men, Fathers and Leaders for our families and communities. Through their core classes, electives, extracurricular clubs; our students have become very well rounded in the skillsets to be successful young men at our campus, in college and in their future careers.

**Young Men's Leadership Academy at Florence Middle School** - Young Men's Leadership Academy at Florence Middle School opened its doors during the 2016-2017 school year. The single gender leadership academy focuses on rigorous academics, social service, character building, and leadership opportunities. The goal for moving in this direction is to provide another option for neighborhood students to earn the academic credentials needed to qualify for at least two House Bill 5 mandated endorsements, then once in high school, take advantage of the Early College Programs and get a head start on completing their associate's degree.

**Young Men's Leadership Academy Boarding School** - Dallas ISD is in the developmental stages to potentially launch a Young Men's Leadership Academy Boarding experience that will employ a school within a school model during the 2019-2020 school year, given the approval of a state funded grant. The experience is intended to immerse scholars in a STEM focused living and learning environment designed to help the students discover a love of learning and to build STEM specific career skills and aspirations. The mission is to ensure all scholars excel academically and socially into next generation leaders, equipped with a college preparatory experience to become productive citizens in a global society utilizing a STEM immersion curriculum that expands learning opportunities and prepares scholars for careers in STEM fields.

The school will feature a cohort of up to 75 students selected based on their family interest and STEM subject proficiency. Selected students will reside in a campus based dormitory facility and receive intensive academic, social, experiential, and career focused support aimed at helping them excel academically and to cultivate interest for a career in a STEM related field. While Boarding Experience

students will receive intensive support, the entire campus will benefit from the adoption of a rigorous Pre-Advanced Placement curriculum, school-wide AVID integration, and multiple high school credit opportunities. In addition, enhanced programming will include Boy Scouts of America and Franklin Covey's *The Leader in Me* Program offered to all students.

### **Leadership – Excellence – Achievement – Development (LEAD)**

Leadership – Excellence – Achievement – Development (**LEAD**) is a **LEAD**ership development mentoring initiative designed to help young men of color find their passion, walk in their purpose, and reach their potential. The purpose of the program is to provide mentor opportunities that supports the acquisition of leadership skills. Reflective questioning, open dialogue, coaching strategies, guided reflection and focused learning conversations are key components of the program. The guiding principles of the program include: a learning partnership based on mutual respect, trust and freedom of expression; a focus on the further development of leadership strengths through practice and reflection; and a transformational and relational approach to learning. Additionally, the **LEAD**ership development initiative ensure that students maintain at least a satisfactory GPA, high attendance record and possess non-disruptive behaviors throughout the instructional day. The intentional focus on academic, social, and emotional learning opportunities are non-negotiables of the program. Currently, there are 500 male students participating in the **LEAD**ership initiative.

### **Annual “Breakfast with Dads”**

Billy Earl Dade Middle School held it’s first "Breakfast With Dads" event, nearly 600 men arrived at the school to volunteer to mentor male students. The volunteers came from diverse backgrounds, including dads from various parts of Dallas, men in local law enforcement, public officials and community organizers and pastors. Principal, Tracie Washington wanted each male student to pair with a positive male role model for the event. Each mentor was tasked to commit to meet with students weekly for the 2017-18 school year and work with male students to develop high school and post-secondary graduation goals and action plans. Additionally, the mentors assist with problem-solving to help mentees navigate academic, personal, and professional life circumstances. Moreover, listen, serve as a sounding board, and assist students in living their life by design rather than by default. ***Click on the links below for more information:***

[Jason Rodriguez with DISD PD and Tweeter Account.](#)

[Washington Post](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hukCxxkijnbg>

More than three years ago, Dade Middle School was one of the lowest-performing middle schools in the district. The school has recruited help from local churches and organizations, and received extra support from Dallas ISD with its Accelerating Campus Excellence school program.

### **African American Success Initiative Student Advocacy Program**

**African American Success Initiative (AASI) Student Advocacy Program** for at-risk, 9<sup>th</sup> grade males seek to promote school success and stability for males who face academic failure, attendance, discipline issues, abuse, neglect or juvenile delinquency. The program provides an advocate (coordinator) who creates and monitors educational plans, improves educational services, empowers and supports the youth, builds a supportive network in the school and increases the role of school as an anchor. Student Advocacy Coordinators (SAC) include, coordinating services with various youth organizations, Dallas ISD Youth and Family Centers, caseworkers, school counselors, administrators and psychologists to build the student's support system in the school. Additionally, the SAC assists each student with attendance, grades, course placement and course schedules to help keep a focus on education.