

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1821

To strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2011

Mr. PLATTS (for himself and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Family Engagement
5 in Education Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Findings; purpose.
- Sec. 4. Amendment references.
- Sec. 5. Family engagement in education.
- Sec. 6. State plans.
- Sec. 7. Local educational agency plans.

- Sec. 8. Family engagement in education policy.
- Sec. 9. Prevention and intervention programs for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk.
- Sec. 10. High-quality teachers and principals.
- Sec. 11. Family engagement in education programs.
- Sec. 12. Definitions.
- Sec. 13. Conforming amendments.
- Sec. 14. Government Accountability Office study and report.
- Sec. 15. Federal coordination of family engagement in education programming.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Family engagement in a child’s education
4 raises student achievement, improves behavior and
5 attendance, decreases drop-out rates, and improves
6 the emotional and physical well-being of children.

7 (2) Families are critical determinants of chil-
8 dren’s school readiness as well as of students’ deci-
9 sion to pursue higher education.

10 (3) Effective family engagement is a great
11 equalizer for students, contributing to their in-
12 creased academic achievement, regardless of parents’
13 education level, ethnicity, or socioeconomic back-
14 ground.

15 (4) Family engagement can raise student aca-
16 demic achievement so substantially that schools
17 would need to increase spending by more than
18 \$1,000 per pupil to gain the same results.

19 (5) Positive benefits for children, youth, fami-
20 lies, and schools are maximized through effective
21 family engagement that—

1 (A) is a shared responsibility in which
2 schools and other community agencies and or-
3 ganizations are committed to reaching out to
4 engage families in meaningful ways and families
5 are committed to actively supporting their chil-
6 dren’s learning and development;

7 (B) is continuous across a child’s life from
8 birth to young adulthood; and

9 (C) reinforces learning that takes place in
10 all settings.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to
12 strengthen families’ engagement in the education of their
13 children.

14 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT REFERENCES.**

15 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
16 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
17 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
18 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
19 section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-
20 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

21 **SEC. 5. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION.**

22 (a) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY
23 FUND.—Title I (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by
24 adding after section 1004 the following:

1 **“SEC. 1005. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY**
2 **FUND.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency
4 may reserve 1 percent or more of such agency’s allocated
5 funds under section 1122 for each fiscal year for use as
6 provided in subsection (b).

7 “(b) USE OF RESERVED FUNDS.—From the amounts
8 reserved for each fiscal year under subsection (a), each
9 State educational agency shall—

10 “(1) reserve not less than 85 percent for Local
11 Family Engagement Centers under section 1006;
12 and

13 “(2) reserve not more than 15 percent for State
14 educational agency capacity for family engagement
15 activities under section 1007.”.

16 (b) LOCAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS PRO-
17 GRAM.—Title I (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by
18 adding after section 1005, as added by subsection (a), the
19 following:

20 **“SEC. 1006. LOCAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS PRO-**
21 **GRAM.**

22 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-
23 tablish and operate Local Family Engagement Centers
24 and to evaluate the usefulness and effectiveness of innova-
25 tive approaches demonstrated by these centers in engaging
26 families in their children’s education by providing training,

1 services, supports, and opportunities that meet families’
2 needs and remove barriers to their engagement in their
3 children’s education to improve student achievement.

4 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the funds re-
5 served to carry out this section under section 1005(b)(1),
6 a State educational agency shall award grants or enter
7 into contracts and cooperative agreements with eligible en-
8 tities to establish and operate Local Family Engagement
9 Centers.

10 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term
11 ‘eligible entity’ means a private, nonprofit organization
12 that—

13 “(1) has a demonstrated record of working with
14 low-income parents and families in the community;

15 “(2) is located in a community with elementary
16 schools and secondary schools that receive funds
17 under part A and is accessible to families of stu-
18 dents in those schools; and

19 “(3) is partnering with 1 or more local edu-
20 cational agencies, or 1 or more schools, that receive
21 funds under part A.

22 “(d) APPLICATION FOR GRANTS.—To receive a grant
23 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
24 cation to the State educational agency at such time, in

1 such manner, and accompanied by such information as the
2 State educational agency may require, including—

3 “(1) a description of the applicant’s approach
4 on family engagement in education, including its use
5 of strength-based strategies;

6 “(2) information demonstrating that the appli-
7 cant meets the definition of an eligible entity;

8 “(3) information that the applicant has the ca-
9 pacity to operate or act as a center capable of con-
10 ducting the training, services, and support activities
11 to fulfill the purposes of a Local Family Engage-
12 ment Center;

13 “(4) information that the applicant will struc-
14 ture and operate a center of sufficient scope and
15 quality adequate to serve the needs of the local area
16 in which it is located;

17 “(5) a description of the applicant’s experience
18 in providing training, services, and support to low-
19 income parents and families, English language learn-
20 ers, minorities, parents of students with disabilities,
21 parents of homeless students, foster parents, and
22 parents of migrant students;

23 “(6) a description of the collaboration with the
24 local educational agency or school personnel in the
25 geographic area to be served by the center;

1 “(7) a description of the steering committee, a
2 majority of whose members are parents of students
3 in schools that receive funds under part A, that will
4 direct and implement the activities of the Local
5 Family Engagement Center;

6 “(8) a description of how the applicant will co-
7 ordinate its efforts with the Statewide Family En-
8 gagement Centers under subpart 16 of part D of
9 title V in the State;

10 “(9) information that the applicant is capable
11 of meeting milestones or deadlines as the State edu-
12 cational agency may prescribe; and

13 “(10) such other information as the State edu-
14 cational agency determines necessary.

15 “(e) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that re-
16 ceives a grant under this section shall establish and oper-
17 ate a Local Family Engagement Center and use the grant
18 funds to provide training, services, and supports to engage
19 families in their children’s education and to build the
20 school-family partnerships necessary to ensure that all
21 children are on track to graduate from high school ready
22 for college and careers, such as through—

23 “(1) assisting parents and families in under-
24 standing how they can improve student achievement,
25 including how to access ongoing student perform-

1 ance data and related information to support learn-
2 ing in the classroom with activities at home, and in
3 afterschool and extracurricular activities;

4 “(2) training parents and families on effective
5 ongoing communication with their children, teachers,
6 principals, counselors, administrators, and other
7 school personnel;

8 “(3) providing direct services to families, such
9 as home visitation, family literacy programs, and
10 health and behavioral health services to meet the
11 needs of families and remove barriers for engaging
12 in the education of their children;

13 “(4) providing advocacy services to ensure that
14 families can fully participate in their children’s edu-
15 cation;

16 “(5) providing supports such as transportation,
17 childcare, and meals to facilitate families’ engage-
18 ment in the program implemented or assisted by the
19 work of the Local Family Engagement Center;

20 “(6) assisting parents and families in under-
21 standing how they can prepare their children aca-
22 demically, socially, and financially for postsecondary
23 education, including early awareness of the avail-
24 ability of student financial assistance; and

1 “(2) support the development and implementa-
2 tion of a statewide family engagement in education
3 plan.

4 “(b) STATE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATING
5 COUNCILS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational
7 agency that receives funds under part A shall estab-
8 lish a State Family Engagement Coordinating Coun-
9 cil (referred to in this section as a ‘Council’) to en-
10 sure coordination and integration of family engage-
11 ment in education activities across the education
12 spectrum.

13 “(2) REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY.—Each
14 Council shall report to the Governor and the Chief
15 State School Officer of the State on the Council’s
16 findings and recommendations regarding family en-
17 gagement in education and such other information
18 as the Governor may request.

19 “(3) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of the
21 State, in consultation with the State edu-
22 cational agency, shall determine the number of
23 members to serve on the Council and their term
24 of office, and shall appoint such members, ini-
25 tially, for a full term or for a period of less

1 than a full term, as the Governor determines
2 appropriate. Such members shall include rep-
3 resentatives of—

4 “(i) State educational agency pro-
5 grams, Statewide Family Engagement
6 Centers under subpart 16 of part D of title
7 V, and Local Family Engagement Centers
8 under section 1006 operating in the State;

9 “(ii) parent training and information
10 centers and community parent resource
11 centers assisted under sections 671 and
12 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities
13 Education Act, operating in the State;

14 “(iii) the State parent teacher associa-
15 tion and other parent groups;

16 “(iv) family members, students, teach-
17 ers, and school administrators;

18 “(v) the State’s advisory council on
19 early childhood education and care;

20 “(vi) colleges and universities; and

21 “(vii) nonprofit organizations and
22 State governmental agencies serving chil-
23 dren and families.

24 “(B) RESTRICTION ON GOVERNMENT EM-
25 PLOYEES.—Not more than 50 percent of the

1 Council members shall be employees of a State
2 or local unit of government.

3 “(4) DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.—Duties of the
4 Council shall include any duties the Governor may
5 specify and the following duties:

6 “(A) Establish a statewide vision of family
7 engagement in education that is consistent
8 with, and leverages, Federal family engagement
9 in education resources and initiatives.

10 “(B) Encourage consistency in family en-
11 gagement in education policies and practices
12 across learning settings along the child and
13 youth life span.

14 “(C) Coordinate Federal, State, and local
15 family engagement in education programs and
16 activities.

17 “(D) Coordinate family engagement in
18 education programs and activities across early
19 childhood, school-age, vocational and technical,
20 and higher education programs.

21 “(E) Identify opportunities for family en-
22 gagement in education collaboration and re-
23 source sharing among State educational agen-
24 cies, local educational agencies, and organiza-
25 tions that support family-school partnerships.

1 “(F) Review the family engagement in
2 education component of the State plan prepared
3 under section 1111(d) and submit to the State
4 educational agency and to the Governor any
5 recommendations of the Council for modifica-
6 tions to the plan.

7 “(G) Visit local educational agencies,
8 schools, and other learning settings to support
9 monitoring and implementation of family en-
10 gagement in education policies, practices, and
11 uses of funds.

12 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Each State may use funds
13 reserved under section 1005(b)(2) to support the develop-
14 ment and implementation of the statewide family engage-
15 ment in education plan described in section 1111(d)
16 through activities such as—

17 “(1) supporting an office or staff positions
18 within the agency dedicated to family engagement;

19 “(2) carrying out the State’s responsibilities
20 under the Local Family Engagement Centers Pro-
21 gram under section 1006;

22 “(3) developing and implementing a statewide
23 data collection and evaluation system on family en-
24 gagement metrics to identify schools that would ben-

1 efit from training and support related to family en-
2 gagement in education;

3 “(4) reviewing local educational agencies’ family
4 engagement policies and practices as provided by
5 sections 1112(b)(1)(P) and 1118(i), and evaluating
6 the use of funds under this subsection;

7 “(5) coordinating technical assistance and sup-
8 port to local educational agencies with schools that
9 would benefit from training and support related to
10 family engagement in education with the Statewide
11 Family Engagement Centers;

12 “(6) developing curricula for professional devel-
13 opment for teachers, principals, school librarians,
14 and other school leaders on improving family en-
15 gagement in education;

16 “(7) developing standards and curricula for
17 family engagement in education for teacher and
18 principal preparation programs; and

19 “(8) coordinating statewide services related to
20 early education, higher education, child health and
21 welfare, after-school programs, community service-
22 learning programs, and other programs to develop
23 coordinated family engagement in education policies,
24 practices, and services.”.

1 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 2 tents in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
 3 cation Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item
 4 relating to section 1004 the following:

“Sec. 1005. Family engagement and responsibility fund.

“Sec. 1006. Local Family Engagement Centers Program.

“Sec. 1007. State educational agency capacity for family engagement activi-
 ties.”.

5 **SEC. 6. STATE PLANS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1111(d) (20 U.S.C.
 7 6311(d)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(d) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—Each State plan shall
 9 include a plan for strengthening family engagement in
 10 education. Each such plan shall, at a minimum, include—

11 “(1) a description of the State’s criteria and
 12 schedule for review and approval of local educational
 13 agency engagement policies and practices pursuant
 14 to sections 1112(e)(3) and 1118(i);

15 “(2) a description of the State’s system and
 16 process for assessing local educational agency imple-
 17 mentation of section 1118 responsibilities;

18 “(3) a description of the State’s criteria for
 19 identifying local educational agencies that would
 20 benefit from training and support related to family
 21 engagement in education;

22 “(4) a description of the State’s statewide sys-
 23 tem of technical assistance and support for local

1 educational agencies and schools on family engage-
2 ment in education;

3 “(5) an assurance that the State will refer to
4 Statewide Family Engagement Centers those local
5 educational agencies that would benefit from train-
6 ing and support related to family engagement in
7 education;

8 “(6) a plan for using funds received under sec-
9 tion 1005;

10 “(7) a description of the relationship between
11 the State educational agency and Statewide and
12 Local Family Engagement Centers, parent training
13 and information centers, and community parent re-
14 source centers in the State established under sec-
15 tions 671 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabil-
16 ities Education Act; and

17 “(8) a plan for establishing a State Family En-
18 gagement Coordinating Council or, if a similar entity
19 exists, a description of the composition and activities
20 of such similar entity.”.

21 (b) REPORTS.—

22 (1) ANNUAL STATE REPORT.—Section
23 1111(h)(4) (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(4)) is amended—

24 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
25 “and” after the semicolon;

1 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
3 and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(H) the number of schools and the name
6 of each school that would benefit from training
7 and support related to family engagement in
8 education, the reason why such school was so
9 identified, and the measures taken to address
10 the need for training and support; and

11 “(I) information on the State educational
12 agency’s family engagement in education pro-
13 grams and activities.”.

14 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1111(j)
15 (20 U.S.C. 6311(j)) is amended by inserting “the
16 development and implementation of policies and pro-
17 cedures for family engagement in education,” after
18 “reliable,”.

19 **SEC. 7. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1112(b)(1)(P) (20 U.S.C.
21 6312(b)(1)(P)) is amended to read as follows:

22 “(P) a description of the strategy the local
23 educational agency will use to implement and
24 assess family engagement in education under
25 section 1118;”.

1 (b) ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING PLANS.—Section
2 1112(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)) is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (Q) as sub-
4 paragraph (S);

5 (2) in subparagraph (P), by striking “and”
6 after the semicolon; and

7 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (P) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(Q) a description of how the local edu-
10 cational agency will engage families in the de-
11 velopment, implementation, and assessment of
12 local educational agency plans;

13 “(R) a description of how the local edu-
14 cation agency will improve teacher and principal
15 knowledge and skills in effectively engaging par-
16 ents in their children’s education; and”.

17 **SEC. 8. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION POLICY.**

18 (a) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEVELOPMENT
19 OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES.—Section 1118 (20 U.S.C.
20 6318) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (h)
22 as subsections (b) through (i), respectively; and

23 (2) by inserting before subsection (b), as red-
24 igned by paragraph (1), the following:

1 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency
2 and each school receiving funds under this part shall de-
3 velop policies and practices for family engagement in edu-
4 cation that meet the following principles and standards for
5 family-school partnerships:

6 “(1) Welcome all families to be active partici-
7 pants in the life of the school, so that they feel val-
8 ued, connected to each other and to school staff and
9 to what students are learning in class.

10 “(2) Communicate effectively by ensuring reg-
11 ular two-way, meaningful communication between
12 family members and local educational agency and
13 school staff in a manner, language, and with tech-
14 nology that family members can understand and ac-
15 cess.

16 “(3) Support student success by fostering con-
17 tinuous collaboration between family members and
18 local educational agency and school staff to support
19 student learning and healthy development at school
20 and at home.

21 “(4) Speak up for every child and empower
22 family members to be advocates for all students
23 within the school.

1 “(5) Ensure that family members, local edu-
2 cational agencies, and school staff are equal partners
3 in family engagement in education decisionmaking.

4 “(6) Collaborate with community organizations
5 and groups to turn the school into a hub of commu-
6 nity life.

7 “(7) Create a continuum of family engagement
8 in education in student learning and development
9 from birth to young adulthood.

10 “(8) Train and support superintendents, prin-
11 cipals, and teachers to fully engage families in the
12 education of their children.”.

13 (b) WRITTEN POLICY.—Section 1118(b)(2), as reded-
14 ignated by subsection (a), is amended—

15 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(e)” and
16 inserting “(f)”;

17 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and”
18 after the semicolon;

19 (3) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period
20 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

21 (4) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(G) participate in evaluations of the effec-
23 tiveness of family engagement in education
24 strategies and policies; and

1 “(H) participate in developing rec-
2 ommendations for creating a positive school cli-
3 mate and safe and healthy schools.”.

4 (c) RESERVATION.—Section 1118(b)(3)(A), as reded-
5 ignated by subsection (a), is amended to read as follows:

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational
7 agency shall reserve not less than 2 percent of
8 its allocation under subpart 2 to carry out this
9 section.”.

10 (d) RESERVED FUNDS.—Section 1118(b)(3), as re-
11 designated by subsection (a), is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and
13 (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

14 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds reserved
17 under subparagraph (A) may be used for pur-
18 poses including the following:

19 “(i) Increasing capacity through es-
20 tablishment of a dedicated office or dedi-
21 cated personnel within the local edu-
22 cational agency or at the school level for
23 family engagement in education.

24 “(ii) Supporting schools and nonprofit
25 organizations in providing professional de-

1 velopment on family engagement in edu-
2 cation for school staff, parent leadership
3 training, family literacy and numeracy pro-
4 grams, home visitation programs, family
5 volunteerism programs, and other innova-
6 tive programs that meaningfully engage
7 families.

8 “(iii) Developing and implementing
9 local educational agency family engage-
10 ment in education data-collection systems
11 and indicators.

12 “(iv) Assessing and providing rec-
13 ommendations on school family engage-
14 ment in education policies, practices, and
15 use of funds.

16 “(v) Providing technical assistance
17 and training to schools on the implementa-
18 tion and assessment of family engagement
19 in education policies and practices.

20 “(vi) Providing additional support to
21 schools that have been identified for im-
22 provement under section 1116(b) to assist
23 in their implementation of family engage-
24 ment in education, including the hiring

1 and maintenance of family engagement co-
2 ordinators.

3 “(vii) Partnering with Local Family
4 Engagement Centers or community-based
5 organizations to identify community re-
6 sources, services, and supports to remove
7 economic obstacles to family engagement
8 in education by meeting families’ needs.

9 “(viii) Supporting schools and eligible
10 entities in the development of early child-
11 hood programs that promote family en-
12 gagement in education and school readi-
13 ness.

14 “(ix) Establishing and supporting an
15 advisory group comprised of families, edu-
16 cators, and nonprofit organizations to de-
17 velop recommendations to strengthen fam-
18 ily engagement in education from birth to
19 young adulthood.

20 “(x) Assisting schools in the develop-
21 ment, implementation, and assessment of
22 family engagement in education plans.

23 “(xi) Monitoring and evaluating the
24 family engagement in education policies
25 and practices funded under this section.

1 “(xii) Partnering with Local Family
2 Engagement Centers or Statewide Family
3 Engagement Centers to assist the local
4 educational agency and participating
5 schools in the implementation of this sec-
6 tion.

7 “(xiii) Supporting other activities ap-
8 proved in the local education agency’s plan
9 for improving family engagement.”.

10 (e) SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY.—
11 Section 1118(c)(1), as redesignated by subsection (a), is
12 amended in the first sentence by striking “(c) through (f)”
13 and inserting “(d) through (g)”.

14 (f) SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH STUDENT
15 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.—Section 1118(e), as redesi-
16 gnated by subsection (a), is amended—

17 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
18 striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection
19 (c)”;

20 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
21 following:

22 “(1) describe the school’s responsibility to—

23 “(A) provide high-quality curriculum and
24 instruction in a supportive and effective learn-
25 ing environment that enables the children

1 served under this part to meet the State’s stu-
2 dent academic achievement standards, and the
3 ways in which each parent will support their
4 children’s learning, such as—

5 “(i) monitoring attendance and home-
6 work completion;

7 “(ii) volunteering in their child’s
8 classroom or school; and

9 “(iii) participating, as appropriate, in
10 decisions relating to the education of their
11 children and positive use of extracurricular
12 time; and

13 “(B) engage family members in the devel-
14 opment of recommendations for student attend-
15 ance, expectations, behavior, and school safety,
16 including the development of reasonable dis-
17 ciplinary policies and behavioral interventions,
18 such as the implementation of school-wide posi-
19 tive behavior interventions and supports and
20 the phase-out of out-of-school suspension and
21 expulsion; and”.

1 **SEC. 9. PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS FOR**
2 **CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE NE-**
3 **GLECTED, DELINQUENT, OR AT RISK.**

4 (a) STATE PLAN AND STATE AGENCY APPLICA-
5 TIONS.—Section 1414 (20 U.S.C. 6434) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 “and” after the semicolon;

9 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
10 subparagraph (D); and

11 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
12 the following:

13 “(C) that contains an assurance that each
14 child or youth serviced by the programs funded
15 under this subpart will have a transition plan
16 developed in partnership with families and
17 aftercare providers that will place the child or
18 youth on a path to career and college readiness;
19 and”; and

20 (2) in subsection (c)—

21 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (15)
22 through (19) as paragraphs (17) through (21),
23 respectively; and

24 (B) by inserting after paragraph (14) the
25 following:

1 “(15) describes how the State agency will im-
2 plement family engagement in education policies and
3 practices that align with section 1118;

4 “(16) includes an assurance that the State
5 agency will establish, for each child or youth served
6 under this subpart, an educational services and tran-
7 sition plan that is developed in consultation with the
8 child or youth, family members of the child or youth,
9 and the local educational agency or alternative edu-
10 cation program that will receive the child or youth
11 following their period of service under this sub-
12 part;”.

13 (b) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY APPLICATIONS.—
14 Section 1423 (20 U.S.C. 6453) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
16 (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;
17 and

18 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(9) a description of how schools will implement
21 family engagement in education policies and prac-
22 tices that align with the provisions of section 1118;

23 “(10) an assurance that the local educational
24 agency will establish for each child or youth served
25 under this subpart an educational services plan that

1 is developed in consultation with the child or youth,
2 family members of the child or youth, and the local
3 educational agency or alternative education program
4 receiving the child or youth following their period of
5 service under this subpart;”.

6 (c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR CORRECTIONAL
7 FACILITIES RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION.—

8 Section 1425 (20 U.S.C. 6455) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” after
10 the semicolon;

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
12 graph (11) and inserting a semicolon; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(12) prepare an educational services and tran-
15 sition plan for each child or youth served by the pro-
16 gram operated under this subpart, in partnership
17 with families and aftercare providers, consistent with
18 section 1414(a)(1)(C); and

19 “(13) establish for each child or youth residing
20 in the facility and serviced by this subpart an edu-
21 cational services and transition plan that is devel-
22 oped in consultation with the child or youth, family
23 members of the child or youth, and the local edu-
24 cational agency or alternative education program re-

1 ceiving the child or youth following their period of
2 service under this subpart.”.

3 **SEC. 10. HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS.**

4 (a) STATE APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Section
5 2112(b) (20 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following:

7 “(13) A description of how the State edu-
8 cational agency will improve teacher and principal
9 knowledge and skill in effectively engaging families
10 in their children’s education.”.

11 (b) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Section 2113(c) (20 U.S.C.
12 6613(c)) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through
14 (18) as paragraphs (13) through (19), respectively;
15 and

16 (2) by inserting after paragraph (11) the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(12) Training of teachers and principals on
19 how to effectively engage families in their children’s
20 education.”.

21 **SEC. 11. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

22 Subpart 16 of part D of title V (20 U.S.C. 7273 et
23 seq.) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“Subpart 16—Family Engagement in Education**
2 **Programs**

3 **“SEC. 5561. PURPOSES.**

4 “The purposes of this subpart are the following:

5 “(1) To provide financial support to nonprofit
6 organizations to build the capacity of and provide
7 technical assistance and training to State and local
8 educational agencies in the implementation and en-
9 hancement of systemic and effective family engage-
10 ment policies, programs, and activities that lead to
11 improvements in student development and academic
12 achievement.

13 “(2) To assist State educational agencies, local
14 educational agencies, and community-based organi-
15 zations in strengthening partnerships among parents
16 (including parents of children under the age of 6),
17 teachers, principals, administrators, and other school
18 personnel in meeting the educational needs of chil-
19 dren.

20 “(3) To support State educational agencies and
21 local educational agencies in developing and
22 strengthening the relationship between parents and
23 their children’s school in order to further the devel-
24 opmental progress of children.

25 “(4) To coordinate activities funded under this
26 subpart with family engagement in education initia-

1 tives funded under section 1118 and other provisions
2 of this Act.

3 “(5) To assist the Secretary, State educational
4 agencies, and local educational agencies in the co-
5 ordination and integration of Federal, State, and
6 local services and programs to engage families in
7 education.

8 **“SEC. 5562. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

9 “(a) STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS.—
10 The Secretary is authorized to award grants for each fiscal
11 year to statewide nonprofit organizations (and consortia
12 of such organizations and State educational agencies), to
13 establish Statewide Family Engagement Centers that pro-
14 vide comprehensive training, technical assistance, and ca-
15 pacity building to State educational agencies, local edu-
16 cational agencies, schools identified by State educational
17 agencies and local educational agencies, organizations that
18 support family-school partnerships (such as parent-teach-
19 er associations and Parents as Teachers organizations),
20 and other organizations that carry out parent education
21 and family engagement in education programs.

22 “(b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding
23 grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent
24 practicable, ensure that a grant is—

1 “(1) awarded for a Statewide Family Engage-
2 ment Center in each State and outlying area; and

3 “(2) in an amount of not less than \$500,000.

4 **“SEC. 5563. APPLICATIONS.**

5 “(a) SUBMISSIONS.—Each statewide nonprofit orga-
6 nization, or a consortium of such an organization and a
7 State educational agency, that desires a grant under this
8 section shall submit an application to the Secretary at
9 such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such in-
10 formation as the Secretary may require.

11 “(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under
12 paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

13 “(1) A description of the applicant’s approach
14 to family engagement in education, including the use
15 of strength-based strategies.

16 “(2) A description of the applicant’s plan for
17 building a statewide infrastructure for family en-
18 gagement in education, that includes—

19 “(A) management capacity and govern-
20 ance;

21 “(B) statewide leadership;

22 “(C) systemic services for family engage-
23 ment in education;

1 “(D) capacity building for State edu-
2 cational agencies, local educational agencies,
3 and schools;

4 “(E) alignment with title I; and

5 “(F) learning and improvement.

6 “(3) A description of the applicant’s experience
7 in providing training, information, and support to
8 State educational agencies, local educational agen-
9 cies, schools, and nonprofit organizations on family
10 engagement in education polices and practices that
11 are effective for low-income parents and families,
12 English language learners, minorities, parents of
13 students with disabilities, parents of homeless stu-
14 dents, foster parents and students, and parents of
15 migrant students.

16 “(4) An assurance that the applicant will—

17 “(A) be—

18 “(i) governed by a board of directors,
19 the membership of which includes parents
20 of school-aged children; or

21 “(ii) an organization or consortium
22 that represents the interests of parents;

23 “(B) establish a special advisory com-
24 mittee, the membership of which includes—

1 “(i) parents of children from birth
2 through young adulthood, who shall con-
3 stitute a majority of the members of the
4 special advisory committee;

5 “(ii) representatives of the State par-
6 ent teacher association;

7 “(iii) representatives of education pro-
8 fessionals with expertise in improving serv-
9 ices for disadvantaged children;

10 “(iv) representatives of local elemen-
11 tary schools and secondary schools, includ-
12 ing students, disadvantaged youth, and
13 representatives from local youth organiza-
14 tions; and

15 “(v) representatives of State edu-
16 cational agencies and local educational
17 agencies;

18 “(C) use not less than 65 percent of the
19 funds received under this subpart in each fiscal
20 year to serve local educational agencies, schools,
21 and community-based organizations that serve
22 high concentrations of low-income families and
23 disadvantaged children and youth, including
24 English language learners, minorities, parents
25 of students with disabilities, parents of home-

1 less students, foster parents and students, and
2 parents of migrant students;

3 “(D) operate a center of sufficient size,
4 scope, and quality to ensure that the center is
5 adequate to serve the State educational agen-
6 cies, local educational agencies, and community-
7 based organizations;

8 “(E) serve urban, suburban, and rural
9 local educational agencies and schools;

10 “(F) work with—

11 “(i) State educational agencies and
12 local educational agencies and schools;

13 “(ii) other Statewide Family Engage-
14 ment Centers assisted under this section;

15 “(iii) Local Family Engagement Cen-
16 ters assisted under section 1006;

17 “(iv) parent training and information
18 centers and community parent resource
19 centers assisted under sections 671 and
20 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities
21 Education Act;

22 “(v) clearinghouses; and

23 “(vi) other organizations and agen-
24 cies;

1 “(G) use not less than 30 percent of the
2 funds received under this section in each fiscal
3 year to establish or expand technical assistance
4 for evidence-based early childhood parent edu-
5 cation programs;

6 “(H) provide assistance to State edu-
7 cational agencies and local educational agencies
8 and community-based organizations that sup-
9 port family members in areas such as assist-
10 ance in understanding State and local stand-
11 ards and measures of student and school aca-
12 demic achievement and strategies for sup-
13 porting school academic achievement; and

14 “(I) work with State educational agencies,
15 local educational agencies, and schools to deter-
16 mine parental needs and the best means for de-
17 livery of services to address such needs.

18 **“SEC. 5564. USES OF FUNDS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grantees shall use grant funds
20 received under this section to provide training, technical
21 assistance, and capacity building to State educational
22 agencies, local educational agencies, and organizations
23 that support family-school partnerships, to enable those
24 agencies and organizations—

1 “(1) to assist parents in participating effectively
2 in their children’s education and to help their chil-
3 dren meet State and local standards, such as assist-
4 ing parents—

5 “(A) to engage in activities that will im-
6 prove student academic achievement, including
7 understanding how they can support learning in
8 the classroom with activities at home and in
9 afterschool and extracurricular programs;

10 “(B) to communicate effectively with their
11 children, teachers, principals, counselors, ad-
12 ministrators, and other school personnel;

13 “(C) to become active participants in the
14 development, implementation, and review of
15 school-parent compacts, family engagement in
16 education policies, and school planning and im-
17 provement;

18 “(D) to participate in the design and pro-
19 vision of assistance to students who are not
20 making adequate academic progress;

21 “(E) to participate in State and local deci-
22 sionmaking;

23 “(F) to train other parents; and

24 “(G) to help the parents learn and use
25 technology applied in their children’s education;

1 “(2) to develop and implement, in partnership
2 with the State educational agency, a statewide fam-
3 ily engagement in education policy and systemic ini-
4 tiatives that will provide for a continuum of services
5 to remove barriers for family engagement in edu-
6 cation and support school reform efforts; and

7 “(3) to develop, implement, and assess family
8 engagement in education policies and plans under
9 sections 1112 and 1118.

10 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

11 “(1) MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT RE-
12 NEWAL.—For each fiscal year after the first fiscal
13 year for which an organization or consortium re-
14 ceives assistance under this section, the organization
15 or consortium shall demonstrate in the application
16 that a portion of the services provided by the organi-
17 zation or consortium is supported through non-Fed-
18 eral contributions, which may be in cash or in-kind.

19 “(2) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—Each or-
20 ganization or consortium receiving assistance under
21 this section shall submit to the Secretary, on an an-
22 nual basis, information on the activities it has car-
23 ried out using grant funds received under this sec-
24 tion, including reporting on metrics developed under
25 section 5566.

1 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
2 reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds appropriated
3 to carry out this subpart to provide technical assistance,
4 by grant or contract, for the establishment, development,
5 and coordination of Statewide Family Engagement Cen-
6 ters, including their establishment of statewide infrastruc-
7 tures for family engagement in education.

8 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion shall be construed to prohibit a Statewide Family En-
10 gagement Center from—

11 “(1) having its employees or agents meet with
12 a parent at a site that is not on school grounds; or

13 “(2) working with another agency that serves
14 children.

15 “(e) PARENTAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any
16 other provision of this section—

17 “(1) no person (including a parent who edu-
18 cates a child at home, a public school parent, or a
19 private school parent) shall be required to partici-
20 pate in any program of parent education or develop-
21 mental screening under this section; and

22 “(2) no program or center assisted under this
23 section shall take any action that infringes in any
24 manner on the right of a parent to direct the edu-
25 cation of their children.

1 **“SEC. 5565. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN INDIAN SCHOOLS.**

2 “The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with
3 the Secretary of Education, shall establish, or enter into
4 contracts and cooperative agreements with local Indian
5 nonprofit parent organizations to establish and operate,
6 Local Family Engagement Centers and shall establish a
7 national Indian Family Engagement Coordinating Council
8 modeled on the State Family Engagement Coordinating
9 Council as described in section 1007.

10 **“SEC. 5566. METRICS FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDU-**
11 **CATION.**

12 “(a) DEVELOPMENT OF METRICS FOR FAMILY EN-
13 GAGEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of en-
14 actment of the Family Engagement in Education Act of
15 2011, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences,
16 after consultation with the advisory committee established
17 under subsection (b), shall develop recommended metrics
18 on family engagement in education for State educational
19 agencies and local educational agencies that receive funds
20 under section 1118 and provide recommendations on the
21 integration of metrics into State accountability and longi-
22 tudinal data systems.

23 “(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall
24 appoint an advisory committee, including researchers and
25 representatives from national nonprofit organizations with
26 expertise in family engagement in education, to make

1 data-driven recommendations regarding metrics required
2 under subsection (a).

3 “(c) RESEARCH FOR EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGE-
4 MENT IN EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not
5 more than 5 percent of funds appropriated to carry out
6 this subpart to conduct research on effective family en-
7 gagement in education, including through awarding grants
8 and entering into contracts with eligible entities. Such re-
9 search may include—

10 “(1) exploratory research to discover the under-
11 lying processes or components of family engagement
12 programs that are associated with improved edu-
13 cation outcomes for students;

14 “(2) research to—

15 “(A) develop culturally sensitive strategies
16 or programs for improving family engagement
17 in education; and

18 “(B) rigorously evaluate the impact of
19 such strategies or programs on students’ edu-
20 cation outcomes; and

21 “(3) research to—

22 “(A) develop professional development pro-
23 grams intended to enable school personnel to
24 support parental involvement in education; and

1 “(B) rigorously evaluate the impact of
2 such programs on students’ education out-
3 comes.”.

4 **SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

5 Section 9101 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is amended—

6 (1) by striking paragraph (32);

7 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through
8 (31) as paragraphs (21) through (32), respectively;

9 (3) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(20) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION.—

12 The term ‘family engagement in education’ means a
13 shared responsibility—

14 “(A) of families and schools for student
15 success, in which schools and community-based
16 organizations are committed to reaching out to
17 engage families in meaningful ways and families
18 are committed to actively supporting their chil-
19 dren’s learning and development; and

20 “(B) that is continuous from birth through
21 young adulthood and reinforces learning that
22 takes place in the home, school, and commu-
23 nity.”; and

24 (4) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(44) TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS.—The
 2 term ‘tribally controlled schools’ means schools ad-
 3 ministered by Indian tribes or their delegates pursu-
 4 ant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education
 5 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”.

6 **SEC. 13. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

7 The Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by
 8 striking—

9 (1) “parental involvement” and “parent involve-
 10 ment” each place the terms appear and inserting
 11 “family engagement”;

12 (2) “involvement of parents” each place the
 13 term appears and inserting “engagement of fami-
 14 lies”;

15 (3) “parental information and resource center”
 16 each place the term appears and inserting “State-
 17 wide Family Engagement Center”;

18 (4) “parental information and resource centers”
 19 each place the term appears and inserting “State-
 20 wide Family Engagement Centers”; and

21 (5) “involve parents” each place the term ap-
 22 pears and inserting “engage families”.

23 **SEC. 14. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY**
 24 **AND REPORT.**

25 (a) STUDY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of
2 the United States shall conduct a study, and make
3 findings and recommendations relating to compli-
4 ance with, and use of funds made available for, sec-
5 tion 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
6 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6318), including mat-
7 ters specified in paragraph (2).

8 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The study shall include a re-
9 view and analysis of—

10 (A) the use of funds reserved by local edu-
11 cational agencies for family engagement under
12 such section 1118;

13 (B) the innovative, effective, replicable, or
14 model family engagement in education policies,
15 practices, and uses of funds of State edu-
16 cational agencies and local educational agencies
17 determined by the Secretary of Education to be
18 in alignment with section 1118;

19 (C) any barriers to State educational agen-
20 cies and local educational agencies in imple-
21 menting section 1118;

22 (D) any barriers to Indian tribes and orga-
23 nizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and
24 Alaska Native organizations in developing, im-

1 plimenting, and assessing family engagement in
2 education policies and practices; and

3 (E) the use of data collection and report-
4 ing and outcome and assessment systems of
5 State educational agencies and local educational
6 agencies to determine the extent to which fam-
7 ily engagement in education is implemented as
8 described in section 1118.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
11 of the United States shall prepare and submit to the Com-
12 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
13 Senate and the Committee on Education and the Work-
14 force of the House of Representatives a report containing
15 the findings and recommendations resulting from the
16 study conducted under this section.

17 **SEC. 15. FEDERAL COORDINATION OF FAMILY ENGAGE-**
18 **MENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMMING.**

19 (a) STAFFING.—Not later than 6 months after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, there shall be established
21 in the Department of Education dedicated staff, including
22 a Director, for family and community engagement.

23 (b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Director shall include
24 the following:

1 (1) Articulating a national vision of family en-
2 gagement in education.

3 (2) Coordinating and integrating activities re-
4 lated to family engagement strategies, services, and
5 programs within the Department and across Federal
6 agencies.

7 (3) Providing guidance to Department offices
8 and units on the administration of family engage-
9 ment in education programs, community school pro-
10 grams, and other related initiatives, such as Promise
11 Neighborhoods.

12 (4) Ensuring consistency in family engagement
13 in education policies and programs within the De-
14 partment.

15 (5) Ensuring consistency in family engagement
16 in education policies and programs with family en-
17 gagement policies and practices of the programs and
18 activities of other Federal agencies.

19 (6) Administering the Statewide Family En-
20 gagement Centers under section 5562 of the Ele-
21 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and
22 the Full Service Community Schools program.

23 (7) Developing, in consultation with the public
24 through an invitation for public comment in the
25 Federal Register, a plan for innovation, research,

1 and evaluation of family engagement in education,
2 including impact, implementation, and replication
3 studies.

4 (8) Conducting, by arrangement with the De-
5 partment's Institute of Education Sciences, by con-
6 tract, or by competition, innovation, research and
7 evaluation on family engagement in education con-
8 sistent with the requirement of section 5566(c) of
9 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
10 1965.

11 (9) Disseminating effective and innovative prac-
12 tices on family engagement to State educational
13 agencies, Statewide Family Engagement Centers
14 and Local Family Engagement Centers, parent
15 training and information centers and community
16 parent resource centers assisted under sections 671
17 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
18 cation Act, administrators of title I of the Elemen-
19 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and others.

21 (10) Coordinating innovation, research, train-
22 ing, and technical assistance activities among State-
23 wide Family Engagement Centers, Local Family En-
24 gagement Centers, and regional educational labora-
25 tories.

1 (11) Identifying opportunities for family en-
2 gagement in education collaboration and resource
3 sharing among State educational agencies, local edu-
4 cational agencies, and organizations that support
5 family-school partnerships.

6 (12) Preparing a biennial report to Congress on
7 family engagement in education, including a sum-
8 mary of activities, performance, and outcomes under
9 sections 1006, 1008, 1112, 1118, and 5562 of the
10 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

11 (13) Publishing State educational agency family
12 engagement in education plans and reports prepared
13 as required by section 1111 of the Elementary and
14 Secondary Education Act of 1965 on the website of
15 the Department.

16 (14) Carrying out such other duties as may be
17 designated by the Secretary.

18 (c) FEDERAL DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY COOPERA-
19 TION.—Each department or agency of the Federal Gov-
20 ernment providing programs related to family and commu-
21 nity engagement in education shall—

22 (1) cooperate with the efforts of the Director
23 described in subsection (a);

1 (2) provide such assistance, statistics, studies,
2 reports, information, and advice as the Director may
3 request, to the extent permitted by law;

4 (3) adjust department or agency staff job de-
5 scriptions to support collaboration and implementa-
6 tion of the vision and strategy; and

7 (4) assign department or agency liaisons to the
8 office to oversee and implement interagency coordi-
9 nation.

○