

WSPTA recognizes there is strong evidence that students whose families are engaged with school have better outcomes – better attendance, higher grades, increased enrollment in rigorous classes, and higher graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates – regardless of income or background.¹ Educators identify family engagement as one of the most challenging aspects of their work.² Parent Involvement Coordinators are part of the prototypical school funding model, but the role has no defined duties, and the funding is for allocation purposes only.³

Background

- The Washington legislature acknowledged the importance of family engagement by adding **Parent Involvement Coordinators (PICs)** to the prototypical school funding model. In 2016-17, the total number of PICs hired statewide was only 100.⁴
- The Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) was created in 2009 to address the opportunity gap in Washington state. The EOGOAC has highlighted **family and community engagement as a key component of an integrated student supports model to close opportunity gaps.**⁵ The EOGOAC recommends the legislature revise the prototypical school funding model to ensure all school districts have at least one family engagement coordinator at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.⁶
- In 2016, the Office of the Education Ombuds made recommendations on the definition and framework for PICs.³ Following the release of the recommendations, SHB 1618 (2017)⁷ passed the House. The bill:
 - Specifies certain minimum duties for a family and community engagement coordinator within a school building or school district.
 - Provides that state funding allocated to school districts for family and community engagement coordinators in the prototypical school funding formula may be used only for family and community engagement purposes.
 - Replaces the term "parent involvement coordinator" in the funding model and the Learning Assistance Program statutes with the term "family and community engagement coordinator."
- In the 2017 legislative session, EHB 2242 enhanced the allocations for PICs to 1.0 FTE in all schools⁸, but appropriations were only made for 1.0 FTE for PICs at elementary schools.⁹

Proposed Solutions

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that increase transformative family engagement practices by:

- Replacing "Parent Involvement Coordinator" with the more inclusive "Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Coordinator" in the PSM formula;
- Adopting a clear definition for FACE coordinators;
- Funding at least a 1.0 FTE FACE coordinator per school, starting with high poverty schools first.

For More Information

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For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website (www.wastatepta.org)

Citations

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