

## 4.16 Equitable and Impactful Family Engagement in Education

*Resolution passed 2022*

**Whereas**, according to the OSPI Family Engagement Framework 2021 Report to the legislature, family engagement is a full and equitable partnership among families, educators, providers, and communities to support learners' development from birth through college and career; and

**Whereas**, it is a core value of National PTA, and therefore WSPTA, to commit to supporting strong family engagement by promoting an environment in which families are valued as primary influences in their children's lives and essential partners in their children's education and development; and

**Whereas**, families - particularly low-income and limited-English-proficient families - face multiple barriers to engagement, often lacking access to the social capital and understanding of the school system necessary to take effective action on behalf of their children; and

**Whereas**, equitable family engagement amplifies educational success for all learners by acknowledging the myriad of family types, including multi-generational, cultural, same-gender, single-parent, and linguistically diverse families; and

**Whereas**, unless there is intentional work to break down barriers to participation, low-income families, migrant families, families of color, families with students with disabilities, families with parents with disabilities, and non-traditional families can feel unwelcome and unprepared to play active roles in schools; and

**Whereas**, National PTA's Center for Family Engagement, which publishes standards for family engagement, asserts that "Developing an inclusive approach helps all families understand that their perspective matters. PTAs need to intentionally build trusting relationships with families in order to ensure they feel comfortable and welcome in the community."; and

**Whereas**, the National PTA School of Excellence recognition program opens the lines of communication and critical thinking within school communities to make data-driven decisions that yield positive, long-term results. School of Excellence is committed to supporting and recognizing partnerships between local PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

### **Therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils advocate for the full adoption and implementation of the OSPI Family Engagement Framework and National PTA Standards for Family Engagement and work to support schools, PTAs, and families as these recommendations are implemented, including:

- Funding at least one family engagement coordinator at every school in our state
- Increasing the amount and availability of professional learning in family engagement for educators
- Participating in the development and implementation of new National PTA Family Engagement Standards

- Conducting an internal examination of our own policies and practices related to equitable family engagement to ensure alignment with state and national frameworks; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils increase local PTA participation in the National PTA Schools of Excellence program to ensure that families are engaged and supported consistent with the core beliefs and standards of our National PTA; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils advocate for models of site-based decision making which provide for equitable participation among families, students, community members, principals, teachers, and other staff and which promote an environment in which families are valued as essential partners in their children's education and development.