

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services and Education  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
& Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
& Related Agencies  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Appropriations Request:  
\$25 Million for Statewide Family Engagement Centers**

Dear Chair Aderholt, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, & Ranking Member DeLauro:

The 75 undersigned national and state organizations respectfully request no less than \$25 million in funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) grant program in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill.

Research shows that family engagement advances the academic and developmental progress of our nation's children and drives increases in student achievement.<sup>1</sup> The SFEC program provides much-needed technical assistance and partnership development to states and school districts to foster meaningful engagement with families to further their children's academic and developmental progress. SFECs work with all parents and schools throughout their state to create systemic improvements and simultaneously provide direct services to families to equip them with the tools to effectively work with schools to improve academic outcomes and overall well-being for their children. The success of SFECs has been well documented,<sup>2</sup> and they serve as a vital resource for families during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> Our organizations believe that an investment in SFECs is critical to ensuring that families are meaningfully supported and engaged in their child's education, so they can support our nation's students in becoming fully prepared for higher education and careers.

Family engagement boasts strong bipartisan support – leaders of recent “Dear Colleague” letters supporting robust funding for the SFEC program include Representative Mark DeSaulnier

(D-CA), Representative Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA), Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) and Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC). Colleagues from both sides of the aisle have continuously affirmed their support for an increase of funding for SFECs on the behalf of their constituents. More than ever, continued bipartisan support for the program is needed to strengthen family engagement in schools.

For the reasons above, we respectfully request at least \$25 million in funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers grant program in the FY 2024 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill. Thank you again for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to working with you to support this important program.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

National PTA

National Center for Families Learning

PACER Center

All4Ed

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)

Center for Family Involvement @ VCU

Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities

Coalition for Community Schools

Council for Exceptional Children

Council of Administrators of Special Education

EDGE Consulting Partners

Federation for Children with Special Needs

GLSEN

Institute for Educational Leadership

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Learning Heroes

National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE)

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)

National Military Family Association

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

Parents as Teachers

SchoolHouse Connection

Show and Tell

Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)

The Advocacy Institute

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

State & Local Organizations

African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc.

Alabama PTA

Alliance for Quality Education

Amanda Elzy High School PTSA

Arizona PTA

Arkansas Congress of Parents and Teachers Association

Arkansas State Independent Living Council

Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

California State PTA

Colorado PTA

Connecticut PTA

Delaware PTA

East Middle School PTA

Family Connection of South Carolina

FIRSTwnc

Florida PTA

Georgia Parents & Teachers Association

Illinois PTA

Louisiana Parent Teacher Association

Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association

Michigan PTA

Minnesota PTA

Missouri PTA

Nebraska PTA

New Hampshire PTA

New Jersey PTA

New Mexico PTA

North Dakota PTA  
NYS PTA  
Ohio PTA  
Oklahoma PTA  
Oregon PTA  
Parent Information Center of Delaware  
Parents Helping Parents (Silicon Valley)  
PEAK Parent Center  
Pennsylvania PTA  
Research, Evaluation, and Measurement Center at the University of South Carolina  
South Dakota State PTA  
Tennessee PTA  
Texas PTA  
The Parents' Place of MD  
Vermont PTA  
Virginia PTA  
Washington State PTA  
West Virginia PTA

---

<sup>1</sup> See "Parent, Family, and Community Involvement in Education." National Education Association. 2008. <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.204.7661&rep=rep1&type=pdf>. See also Henderson, A. T., & Mapp, K. L. "A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement." National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools. 2002. <https://sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See "Catalyzing Family, School, and Community Partnerships: A Review of the Work of the Statewide Family Engagement Centers." National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE). 2021. <https://nafsce.org/page/sfecreport>.

<sup>3</sup> See "Statewide Family Engagement Centers making strategic, widespread impact amid pandemic." National Center for Families Learning. 2020. <https://www.familieslearning.org/blog/sfec-impact-pandemic>.