

## **58 National, State, and Local Organizations Urge Congress to Fund Statewide Family Engagement Centers in Fiscal Year 2027**

As you draft the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill, the 58 undersigned organizations respectfully request that you provide \$25 million for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) grant program, with the long-term goal of funding that can support a Center in every state. Additionally, we request that the SFEC program is explicitly specified within the text of the L-HHS-ED bill.

Research shows that family engagement advances the academic and developmental progress of our nation's children and drives increases in student achievement.[1] Amid serious concerns around nation-wide scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and attention on implementation of the Science of Reading to improve literacy, supporting the critical role families play in academic achievement and student success is essential.

The SFEC program is the only education grant program solely dedicated to family engagement within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and it enjoys bipartisan support (with Senators Tillis and Coons and Representatives Thompson and DeSaulnier leading the FY27 Dear Colleague letters supporting SFEC funding). The program provides much-needed technical assistance and partnership development to states and school districts to foster meaningful engagement with families. SFECs work with parents and schools statewide to create systemic improvements and simultaneously provide direct services to schools and families to equip them with the tools to effectively work together to improve academic outcomes and overall well-being for their children. The success of SFECs has been well documented. [2] 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 the future.

We respectfully request no less than \$25 million in funding for the Statewide Family Engagement Centers grant program in the FY 2027 L-HHS-ED appropriations bill. That funding level would support current grantees and provide additional states with the opportunity to engage in this great work. Furthermore, we urge you to reject any proposals to eliminate the SFEC program. 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

AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)

American Psychological Association

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Coalition for Community Schools  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
EDGE Consulting Partners  
EdTrust  
Evaluation Data Solutions, LLC  
Institute for Educational Leadership  
National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Center for Families Learning  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National PLACE  
National School Boards Association  
PACER Center  
Parents as Teachers National Center  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
The Advocacy Institute

State & Local Organizations

Alabama PTA  
Alaska PTA  
Burlington County Council PTA  
California State PTA  
Colorado PTA  
Connecticut PTA  
Delaware PTA  
European PTSA  
Florida PTA  
Free State PTA  
Georgia Parents Teachers Association  
Hawai'i State PTSA

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Illinois PTA  
Indian River County Council PTA  
Inez Elementary PTA  
ME PTA  
Michigan PTA  
Missouri PTA  
MT State PTA  
NCPTA  
New Jersey PTA  
New Mexico PTA  
North Dakota PTA  
NYS PTA  
Ohio PTA  
Oklahoma PTA  
Oregon PTA  
PEAK Parent Center  
Pennsylvania PTA  
South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers (SCPTA)  
South Dakota PTA  
The Parents' Place of MD  
Utah PTA  
Vermont PTA  
Washington State PTA  
WEST VIRGINIA PTA  
Wisconsin PTA

[1] 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>.

[2] 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/sfcreport>.

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