Rethinking Title I Parental Involvement

Moving Beyond a Checklist of Activities to a Systemic Plan for Sustained Family and Community Engagement

February 1, 2011

National Title I Conference
Tampa, Florida
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Purposes of Today’s Session

Share information about the Department’s ESEA reauthorization proposal to support schools, families, and communities.
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- **Illustrate** ways the Department plans to embed family and community engagement across programs and grants.
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- **Share information** about the Department’s ESEA reauthorization proposal to support schools, families, and communities.

- **Illustrate** ways the Department plans to embed family engagement across programs and grants.

- **Explore** strategies and best practices for states, districts, and schools to engage families and communities.
Presenters

• Carl Harris, Ed.D.
  Deputy Assistant Secretary
  Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
  U.S. Department of Education

• Ronn E. Friend, Ed.D.
  Education Program Specialist
  Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
  U.S. Department of Education

• Danita Woodley, MPA
  Education Program Specialist
  Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs
  U.S. Department of Education
A Blueprint for Reform
The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

college- and career-ready students

great teachers and leaders

raise the bar and reward excellence

equity and opportunity

promote innovation
The Path to the Blueprint

The Four Areas of Reform

- Implement College – and Career-Ready Standards
- Great Teachers and Great Leaders
- Provide Information to Families and Engage Families in Their Children’s Learning
- Improve student Learning and Achievement in our lowest performing Schools

Six Reform Priorities

- College- and Career-Ready Students
- Great Teachers and Great Leaders
- Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education
- Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners
- Successful, Safe and Healthy Students
- Fostering Innovation and Excellence

Extensive Outreach
Family and Community Engagement

- Great Teachers and Great Leaders
- Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners
- A Complete Education
- College and Career Ready Students
- Fostering Innovation and Excellence
There is no program and no policy that can substitute for a parent who is involved in their child’s education from day one.

— President Barack Obama
Supporting Families and Communities

ESEA reauthorization provides the opportunity to promote the importance of strengthening and supporting family and community engagement by:

- Supporting comprehensive district approaches to family engagement.
- Enhancing district capacity around family engagement.
- Providing additional resources and expanding grant opportunities to operate programs that promote family and community engagement.
- Identifying and supporting best practices.
Building a Framework for Systemic Family Engagement

Carl Harris, Ed.D.
U.S. Department of Education
Re-envisioning Parent & Community Involvement

**NCLB**

- **Checklist of parent involvement activities**
  Separate and discrete

- **Narrowed approach**
  Often focuses on district and school parental involvement policies

- **Afterthought in school reform process**
  Reject or leave low performing schools

- **Funding to build capacity**
  Isn’t always targeted to the most effective practices; inconsistently implemented

**Our Proposal**

- **Comprehensive planning**
  Focuses on systemic plans and sustaining meaningful partnerships with parents, schools, and community

- **Family engagement framework**
  Focuses on integrated strategies

- **Partnerships**
  Families and community members have an important role in making the school better

- **Expand resources and grant opportunities**
  Support best practices and outstanding local family involvement programs
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring —

• that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
• that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
• that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
• the carrying out of other activities.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT means the systemic inclusion of parents and families as partners with local educational agencies and school staff in their child's education in a manner that promotes shared responsibility for student learning; is responsive to student, parent, and family needs; and reinforces that learning begins at birth and takes place in the home, school, and community.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family &amp; Community Engagement - Principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Treat parents and families as the <strong>key stakeholders</strong> they are in their children’s education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Shift focus from a <strong>discrete activity</strong> to an <strong>integrated strategy</strong>.</td>
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<td>• Strengthen teachers’ and leaders’ <strong>skills</strong> in working with families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Engage families in <strong>accessing</strong> and <strong>using</strong> information about their child’s school and their child’s progress.</td>
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Strengthen community learning centers & support more learning time including:

- after-school programs;
- comprehensive supports to students and families;
- full-service community schools.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

Create birth-through-college-and-career-continuum of:
- effective community services;
- strong family supports;
- comprehensive education reform.

Promise Neighborhoods

Implement climate measurement systems to target resources to:
- improve school safety and strengthen family & student engagement;
- improve students’ physical & mental health.

Successful, Safe, & Healthy Students

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Increase Funding and Grant Opportunities

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## Family & Community Engagement - Structure

### Increase Funding and Grant Opportunities

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<th>Double Required Title I Dollars for Parent Engagement From 1 Percent to 2 Percent</th>
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<td>Roughly $270 million for districts to implement systemic and comprehensive ways to engage families to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• accelerate student achievement;</td>
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<td>• connect with school reform.</td>
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<th>Create Optional Family Engagement and Responsibility Fund</th>
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<td>$145 million in existing Title I funds for State-Led Competition to:</td>
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<td>• support outstanding local family involvement programs;</td>
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<td>• support best practices at the local level.</td>
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*Secretary Duncan’s Proposal: *Mom’s Congress on Education and Learning Conference – May 5, 2010*
Reinforces that learning begins at birth and takes place in the home, school, and community.

Focus on family engagement strategies that increase student achievement and create a welcoming environment, open communication, and strong collaboration between families and their children’s teachers, schools, and districts.

Promotes the systematic inclusion of parents and families as partners with district and school staff in their child’s education.

Is responsive to student, parent, and family needs, including the needs of diverse families and the variety of family structures.

Reinforces that learning begins at birth and takes place in the home, school, and community.

Family & Community Engagement - Structure

Shared Responsibility

Responsive

Multidimensional

Comprehensive
Family & Community Engagement Plans

Each District and School Receiving Title I Funds develops a family engagement plan with participation of parents, school leaders, teachers, and other stakeholders (Proposed section 1118(b))

- Responds to the needs of families
  - Input from families
  - School and family demographic
  - Student achievement

- Promotes strategies to engage families
  - Create a welcoming environment
  - Foster collaboration and communication between families and communities, schools, and districts

- Conducts an annual review
  - Input from parents and school and district staff
  - Revise and update as needed to ensure strategies are being realized

Is Included in the schoolwide or targeted assistance plan
Beyond Random Acts
Family, School, and Community Engagement as an Integral Part of Education Reform

Heather B. Weiss, M. Elena Lopez, and Heidi Rosenberg
Harvard Family Research Project

DECEMBER 2010

This paper was prepared by the Harvard Family Research Project with support from SEDL for the National PIRC Coordination Center, a project of SEDL in collaboration with the Harvard Family Research Project and the Mike Group, Inc. It was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education under contract number ED-04-CF-0059(003).
The policy forum posed four questions to reframe a national strategy:

1. What does family and community engagement look like in a new era of education reform?

2. How can federal, state, and local stakeholders leverage existing and emerging legislation and programs to create systemic family engagement?

3. How can educators and other stakeholders use student performance data to connect families and schools in meaningful ways?

4. What are the opportunities for engaging families in transforming low-performing schools?
Engagement is a shared responsibility.

- The role of supporting learning
- The school partnership role
- The role of advocate for school improvement
- The decision-maker and leadership role

What does family and community engagement look like?
Family engagement is a sustained pathway from early childhood programs through high school.

- Federal government, states, and districts rethink practices and policies.
- Focus on scaling-up research-based and innovative practices.
Data engage families throughout the school years.

- Student data help families to focus on the trajectory of high school graduation and college and career readiness.

- Student data help families to guide their child’s learning goals and connect them to other learning resources, i.e. afterschool programs.
Families and communities can be a force for turning around low-performing school.

- Student data become a tool for honest and transparent conversations between families and schools.
- School staff reach out to parents to build a culture of trust.
Embrace the Challenge: Tips for Building a Framework for Systemic Family & Community Engagement

Danita A. Woodley, MPA
U.S. Department of Education
The poverty rate in 2009 (14.3 percent) was the highest poverty rate since 1994 but was 8.1 percentage points lower than the poverty rate in 1959.

The number of people in poverty in 2009 (43.6 million) is the largest number in the 51 years for which poverty estimates have been published.

Build Capacity for Family Engagement and Student Achievement

Tip #1
Build A Culture of Engagement

• Engage Families and Communities of Low-Performing Schools

• Develop a Positive Climate/Culture

• Utilize Data to Engage Parents
Nurture Effective Partnerships

Student Achievement

Families

CBOs/FBOs

Schools

Parents

Tip #3
Find and Replicate Promising Practices

There are many promising family engagement practices across the country!
Tip #5

Seek Resources
**Promising Strategies Resources**

- Coalition for Community Schools:
  [http://www.communityschools.org](http://www.communityschools.org)

- Family-School Partnerships: National Standards for Family – School Partnerships:

- National Dropout Prevention Center/Network:

- National PIRC Coordination Center:

- Promise Neighborhoods:
Tools for Building Partnerships

- Corporation of National and Community Service - Funding Opportunities and Partnerships for Native American Communities:
  
  http://www.learnandserve.gov/


- National Network of Partnership Schools:
  
  http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/

- State Offices of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships:
  
  http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ofbnp/offices/states
**Tools for Building Capacity**


Data Resources

- National Dropout Prevention Center:  
  http://www.dropoutprevention.org/statistics

- U.S. Department of Education/National Center for Education Statistics:  
  http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/

- US Census Bureau - American Fact Finder:  
  http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html?_lang=en

- US Census Bureau - State and County Quick Facts:  
  http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/
ESEA Reauthorization
U.S. Department of Education

- ESEA Reauthorization:
  http://www.ed.gov/blog/topic/esea-reauthorization/

- Administration’s Blueprint:

- Supporting Families and Communities Blueprint:
Contact Information

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