



NAFSCE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

February 17, 2016

Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

We are pleased to offer this edition of NAFSCE News. As you'll notice from the family engagement activities and articles posted below, there is significant activity all over the country around elevating family engagement; from new federally funded National Centers which include family engagement as a core strategy, to enhanced state parental involvement bills, to new studies reinforcing the significance of family engagement, to interesting innovative practices in communities. Without a doubt, there is positive movement in both family engagement policy and practice!

Vito Borrello
NAFSCE Executive Director

Association News

Next NAFSCE Network Meeting

Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 3-5pm - *Advancing Policy Meeting*

[Every Student Succeeds Act: A NAFSCE Town Hall Meeting](#)

Please join us for a live policy conversation at NEA's offices in Washington, DC, to discuss family engagement in the ESSA Legislation. The new law builds on key areas of progress in recent years, made possible by the efforts of families, schools, and communities across the country.

[Register Now](#)

New at NAFSCE

New Partnerships

NAFSCE is pleased to announce its involvement in two new federally funded five-year National Center programs.

Both initiatives are part of a new Early Childhood T/TA system bringing together funding, knowledge, and skills from the Office of Child Care, the Office of Head Start and their health partners in HHS - the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- NAFSCE is pleased to be an Advisor and Consultant for the [National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagement \(NCPFCE\)](#), led by Brazelton Touchpoints Center.
- NAFSCE is also pleased to be an Advisor and Consultant for the [National Center on AfterSchool and Summer Enrichment \(NCASE\)](#), led by Education Development Center (EDC).

The work of the National Centers will reach federal grantees through enhanced networks of early childhood specialists that can work directly with states, Tribes, and Early Head Start and Head Start programs. In both Centers, elevating family engagement practice is a core strategy. NAFSCE looks forward to working with the dynamic partners involved with both projects.

Community of Practice Update

On February 2, 2016, NAFSCE launched a Community of Practice (CoP) exclusively for NAFSCE Members. The CoP centered on the [Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships](#) and specifically focused on "linked to learning" opportunity conditions.

NAFSCE members participating in the CoP brought a wide range of experiences and resources to the conversation. Some of the shared resources included [video clips](#) from Karen Mapp to help better understand the Framework, and information on developing [School-Parent compacts](#). Members expressed their excitement about having this space to connect with and learn from other FSCE professionals.

If you are not yet a member and would like to participate in the CoP we invite you to visit www.NAFSCE.org to join today. NAFSCE members interested in participating in the CoP, please [fill out this form](#) by February 23, 2016 and we will follow up with more details.

NAFSCE Online

This week we are featuring a blog written by one of NAFSCE's Board Members and the Associate Director of the Harvard Family Research

Project, M. Elena Lopez.

Building trusting and collaborative relationships between parents and school staff is critical to overcoming barriers of race, class and culture. Doing that starts with empathy, being able to put oneself in another's place. In her eloquent blog, M. Elena Lopez describes how using a tool from Human-Centered Design helped her organization's staff understand the address challenges that many of our families face.



M. Elena Lopez

Read her post, [Why We Need a Human Centered Approach to Family Engagement](#).

Partner News

2016 National Family & Community Engagement Conference

June 20-22, 2016; Pittsburgh, PA

The [2016 National Family & Community Engagement Conference](#) will take place on June 20-22, 2016 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. With over 75 workshops, major plenaries and mini-plenaries, this years conference, this year's conference is designed to support all those committed to high impact, evidence-based family and community engagement strategies regardless of role.



[Registration is open now.](#)

Community-Engagement Grant Opportunity for New England School Districts

[The Nellie Mae Education Foundation](#) and the [Great Schools Partnership](#) are inviting New England public school districts to submit a letter of interest for a community-engagement grant opportunity. We believe that stronger school-community partnerships, relationships, and

conversations are essential to improving schools and better preparing today's students - especially and essentially underserved students. Through authentic family and community engagement, schools and communities can accelerate student-centered approaches to learning, and ensure that every student is fully prepared for life after high school. [Learn More.](#)



Hundreds of black men turn out to encourage students, dispel stereotypes

Organizers of the event at a Seattle Pre-K-8 school hoped that 100 men would show up. They were surprised. Over two hundred African American men, wearing their work clothes, from police uniforms to academic robes, spent 45 minutes early one morning greeting students as they arrived at school. As one father commented, "America only sees us on the news, in sports or entertainment. They don't see us as fathers, as professionals." Never underestimate the power of Hello!

Parents helping too much with homework could be undermining their kids: Beware the helicopter parent

Overdoing it with homework help, especially for high school students, can backfire, according to a new study from Australia. "The irony is a helicopter parenting style with the goal of fostering academic achievement could be undermining the development of independent and resilient performance in their children." says Judith Locke, a clinical psychologist and author of the study. As children get older, they should be taking increased responsibility for completing their work and doing it well.

New Report Shows How Community Schools Transform Schools, Communities, Lives

Drawing in community resources and transforming schools into vibrant places for all-day, year-round learning is a powerful strategy for improving public education. This new report describes in detail how six community schools, three districts and one state, turned struggling schools into ones that thrive and revitalize the community around them.

Public Libraries to strengthen family engagement through new project with Harvard Family Research Project

The Public Library Association (PLA) has announced a partnership with the Harvard Family Research Project to help public libraries identify successful family engagement strategies and implement them to help children of all ages succeed in school and life. Libraries for the 21st Century: It's a Family Thing, is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and will result in an "ideabook" about family engagement in public libraries. The toolkit will include a research brief about family engagement and best practices identified during the project.

Will California Lead Meaningful Parent and Family Engagement?

Two new reports express cautious optimism that parent and family engagement could reach long-touted potential under the local control funding formula provisions, but they also assert that effective parent engagement has thus far proved elusive for many California districts. "Ready or Not," the report from [Families in Schools](#) in Los Angeles, proposes six constructive recommendations for adopting effective practices across the state, which also has proved elusive. Both reports stress the importance of partnerships, professional development, and a diversity of voices, as well as the point of view that effective parent and family engagement is worth the effort.

Mississippi to Rate Parent Involvement?

The Mississippi state legislature is considering a bill that would add a rating for the parent's involvement to student report cards. "I think it's a way that will shock the parents back into reality that it is very important, in fact it's imperative, that we participate in the education of our children," Rep. Greg Holloway, the bill's author, said. NAFSCE believes that parents should have a chance to rate the school's efforts in supporting their engagement. The research shows that it is what schools do to invite and welcome parents that makes the difference. [Let us know what you think.](#)



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