



NAFSCE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

March 17, 2016

Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

Welcome to this edition of NAFSCE News! We are excited to inform you about a webinar to be held next week featuring the Kellogg Foundation and best practice family engagement grantees, which you won't want to miss. Our pilot Community of Practice around the Dual Capacity Framework is also mentioned below, and continues to attract increasing numbers of members. Please consider participating in one or both events!

It's an interesting time in Mississippi pertaining to controversial family engagement legislation. No matter your view on the bill there, it is another example of family engagement being considered an increasingly essential strategy toward student achievement. Catherine Cushinberry, Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools, headquartered in Jackson Mississippi, provides her perspective through a blog on the issue.

We hope you will consider registering for the National Family and Community Engagement Conference in June.

Finally, I just want to thank many of our members who have reached out expressing a positive response about the quality of information in this bi-monthly newsletter. We're committed to being a resource to each of you.

Vito Borrello
NAFSCE Executive Director

Next NAFSCE Network Meeting

March 23, 2016, 3-5:00pm - *Platform for Practice Sharing Meeting*

Kellogg Family Engagement Grantees: Progress Report

In 2014, the W.K. Kellogg foundation made a \$13.7 million investment to empower parents as leaders and key decision makers in education. Thirty organizations from across the country are developing and implementing transformative family engagement models that connect schools, communities, and families for economic and early school success. Join NAFSCE for an engaging conversation with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and some of its Family Engagement grantees as they share their progress to date.

Speakers:

- Jenefer O'Dell, Program Director, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Pecolia Manigo, Acting Executive Director, PLAN Bay Area
- Cheryl Juarez, Sr. Director of Professional Development, Frost Science Museum

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

February Archive Available

The archive is now available for NAFSCE's *Every Student Succeeds Act: A NAFSCE Townhall Policy Conversation*, held on February 24, 2016.

In case you were unable to participate in the live webinar, we are pleased to provide the [archived version](#). You can also download a PDF of the [presentation](#).

New at NAFSCE

Community of Practice

NAFSCE's CoP centers on the [Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships](#). The CoP offers a valuable peer-to-peer learning opportunity and we don't want you to miss it! Join us for the next CoP on April 5, 2016. 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 email [Keami Harris](#).

Grading Parents on Their Involvement -- The Irony of it All

Every so often, a principal, superintendent, board member, or state official, comes up with an idea to fix blame on parents by rating or grading them on their parenting, and score some PR points for looking tough. This time, it is state legislators in Mississippi, who are proposing to require that teachers give parents a grade on their involvement.



Dr. Catherine
Cushinberry

In her blog, Dr. Catherine Cushinberry, the Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools, and a member of the NAFSCE Policy Council, tells the legislature just what she thinks of this idea. [Read her post.](#)

Share your thoughts on the Mississippi bill! [Visit our Facebook page.](#)

Partner News

Discounts extended through March 22! 2016 National Family & Community Engagement Conference

June 20-22, 2016; Pittsburgh, PA

One more week to register for the 2016 National Family and Community Engagement Conference at a discounted price. [Workshops are online](#) so you can start planning your conference experience.

[Register Here](#)



News from the Field

Treating Parents with Respect

What does it take to establish a climate of trust and respect at your school? Creating a welcoming climate is the first step, laying the foundation for a school that is truly family-friendly.

In this lively ten-minute interview, Vicki Davis, the host of the BAM network radio program, Every Classroom Matters, talks with Anne T. Henderson about what it takes to become a Partnership School. The stakes are high, for the research is clear that close collaboration between families and teachers is key to helping all students become high-performers. This interview would be an excellent discussion-starter for a faculty meeting or professional development session.

California must adopt guidelines for parent engagement in schools

"Schools must forge a deeper relationship with parents and families instead of focusing on compliance," challenges an important new report from Families In Schools (FIS). FIS Executive Director, Oscar Cruz, who is a NAFSCE board member and treasurer, says that with the new Local Control Funding Formula, California must take care to move from policy to implementation. The new report, "Ready or Not: Ho California School Districts are Reimagining Family Engagement in the Era of Local Control Funding Formula," offers a detailed rubric that districts and schools can use to assess their efforts to engage parents and families.

Reno Nevada's Family Engagement Director Named A 2016 Leader to Learn From by Education Week

D'Lisa Crain, one of the country's most experienced and innovative district leaders for family engagement has been named a "Leader to Learn From" by the notable education newspaper, Education Week.

Crain has initiated a variety of programs to engage the districts diverse and low-income families, from a Parent University to parent-teacher home visits. Aimed at helping families understand how to navigate a complicated system and boosting teachers' capacity to engage families effectively, the programs are carefully aligned and well designed.

Important New Investment in Family Engagement in Connecticut

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is making a major investment in innovative strategies to engage families. In 2016, the Foundation will award \$750,000 to the Manchester school district to expand its family centers, add ten part-time parent liaisons, increase fathers' engagement, and expand counseling and other resources for families. In addition, the grant will support a new form of parent-teacher conferencing called Academic Parent-Teacher Teams, which research has shown increases parent-teacher collaboration to improve academic skills, with proven results for students.

New Resources on the Every Student Succeeds Act from National PTA

To help parents understand how the new education law can support their increased engagement in their children's learning, National PTA has put out a set of [Fact Sheets](#) on what parents need to know about ESSA.

For additional information about PTA priorities for implementing the family engagement requirements in the new law, [see this article](#)

A Bold Plan to Engage and Support Families

Steve Webb, Superintendent of Vancouver Public Schools, has been named one of the 2016 finalists for National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Superintendents, and one of the 2016 Education Week's Leaders to Learn From. In 2008, he set out to incorporate a bold vision into the Vancouver School District's strategic plan: they would create an "opportunity zone" where schools would focus on addressing needs of kids and families that affect student learning.



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