



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT



Thank you for standing up for family engagement programs and for your unwavering commitment to the students and families we serve. Your advocacy matters, and right now, it's needed more than ever.

Once again, family engagement programs are under threat. The fiscal year 2027 (FY 2027) budget process is well under way, and thus far the Administration's proposed budget includes millions of dollars in cuts to the programs that connect families to schools and help students succeed. In early June 2026, the House Committee on Appropriations also advanced several of these cuts in its first versions of the Department of Education budget.

But this is also a moment of opportunity. Negotiations are ongoing within Congress and now is the time to uplift the programs supporting your work to benefit families and students. Last year's process unfolded in a very similar way, and the field's collective work was able to protect funding for our work.

This toolkit gives you everything you need to take action:

- [A budget fact sheet, including important notes on the process, figures, and other information.](#)
- [A template letter/email to send to your congressional representatives.](#)
- [A phone call script for a quick, impactful outreach.](#)
- [Social media graphics to help spread the word](#)



Not sure who your representatives are? Find them here:
<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

We also encourage you to sign up for your representatives' email lists and follow them on social media. This is the best way to know when they're hosting town halls or visiting your community, a prime opportunity to promote your program publicly and invite them to see your work firsthand.

Important: Congress is in recess most of August, which means your representatives are likely back home and meeting with constituents. This is one of the best times of the year to connect with them directly, explain how important these federal dollars are to your work, and make a personal case for why family engagement funding must be protected.

Let's make our voices heard.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 FEDERAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

(REVISED JULY 1, 2026)

BACKGROUND



This fact sheet provides an update of the federal budget process and where things stand for the fiscal year 2027 (FY 2027) budget currently progressing through Congress. When enacted, this budget will run from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Please note that this document focuses on the Department of Education budget because this is where many federal funds for many family, school, and community engagement (FSCE) programs are located. Other programs are not included in some of the details in this fact sheet because they are not housed in the Department of Education, but they may also provide family engagement services (for example, Head Start is contained in the Department of Health and Human Services budget).

BUDGET PROCESS



Each year, the budget process begins with the President's proposed budget. The President's proposal is a suggestion to Congress, but without congressional action, it has no power on its own. Congress is free to align with the President's proposal or to advance its own priorities.

After the President's proposal, Congress develops its appropriations packages. This work begins in subcommittees within the Committee of Appropriations in each chamber of Congress – the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bills will likely look different as they progress through each chamber. When this happens, the House bill and Senate bill will need to be negotiated into a single bill that must be approved in each chamber. Then, once the identical bill is passed in each chamber, the President can either sign or veto the bill. If signed, it is then an enacted budget.

When Congress is unable to reach agreement on a new appropriations package, it will often pass a "continuing resolution." This continues funding the various federal agencies at the same levels they were previously funded, typically for a set amount of time to allow for Congress to continue negotiations over a full appropriations bill. If no budget or continuing resolution are passed, the government shuts down operations. We saw a prolonged government shutdown in October and November 2025 for this reason.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF FY 2027 BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS?



In April 2026, the President submitted his budget proposal. In June 2026, the House Committee on Appropriations passed its budget package that includes the Department of Education, but this budget has not yet been approved by a full vote of the House. The Senate has not yet released a version of the Department of Education appropriations. This year, Congress is in recess in both August and October so it is not anticipated much work, if any, will happen during those months.

WHAT DOES THE CURRENT HOUSE BILL DO TO FSCE PROGRAMS?



The table below shows the funding and proposed funding for several programs. The first six programs are those that most directly fund FSCE work. The other programs may also fund family engagement activities, although FSCE may not be their primary focus. The first column is the program name, the second column is the amount for this program in the FY 2026 budget, the third column is the amount for that program in the current House version of the FY 2027 budget, and the fourth is what percent change the House version would represent compared to the previously passed budget.

Program (in thousands of dollars)	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 House Version (June 2026)	FY 2027 House Version % Change
Statewide family engagement centers (ESEA IV-E)	20	0	-100%
Full-service community schools (ESEA IV-F-2, section 4625)	150	0	-100%
Promise neighborhoods (ESEA IV-F-2, section 4624)	91	0	-100%
21st century community learning centers (ESEA IV-B)	1,329,673	1,329,673	0%
Parent information centers (IDEA sections 671-673)	33,152	33,152	0%
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies	18,426,802	16,790,647	-9%
State assessments (ESEA I-B, section 1201-1203)	380	0	-100%
Supporting effective instruction State grants (ESEA II-A)	2,190,080	0	-100%
Education for homeless children and youths (MVHAA Title VII-B)	129	129	0%
Student support and academic enrichment grants (ESEA IV-A)	1,380,000	1,385,000	4%
Rural education (ESEA V-B)	225	230	2%
Javits gifted and talented education (ESEA IV-F-4, section 4644)	16,5	0	-100%
English language acquisition (ESEA III-A)	890	0	-100%
Migrant education (ESEA I-C)	375,626	0	-100%
Supporting effective educator development (SEED) (ESEA II-B-4, section 2242)	90	0	-100%
Comprehensive centers (ETAA section 203)	50	0	-100%
Teacher and school leader incentive grants (ESEA II-B-1)	60	0	-100%
Ready-to-learn programming (ESEA IV-F-4, section 4643)	31	0	-100%
Training and advisory services (CRA IV)	6,575	0	-100%
State personnel development (IDEA subpart 1)	38,63	38,63	0%
Personnel preparation (IDEA section 662)	115	115	0%

WHAT NEXT?

It's important to remember that negotiations are ongoing and now is the time to act. The Senate still needs to complete its funding proposals, and then the two chambers of Congress must negotiate any differences that exist.

Last year, the situation looked very similar - the House proposed steep cuts and the Senate proposed stable funding. Ultimately, the final budget more closely resembled the Senate proposal. This was a win for the field, and shows how important it is to tell your stories and show Congress the importance of these funds.

Use this information when you contact your representatives and help ensure family, school, and community engagement programs remain funded.

WILL THIS IMPACT MY SCHOOL?

Most likely, yes. Many schools receive funding from the programs outlined in this budget, though you may know them by a different name. Program titles vary from state to state and even district to district, so a program at your school may be funded by one of these federal sources but be called something else.

The best way to find out is simple: ask your school or district leadership or finance person whether any of your programs are funded by the federal sources listed here. The answer may surprise you and knowing which programs are at risk in your own community is one of the most powerful things you can bring to a conversation with your representatives. Personal, local stories move people.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

This is a template you might use for writing to your representatives. It may also help you create a script for in-person conversations and can be used for written letters as well as emails. Throughout the template, we put items in brackets – **[example]** – that you should replace as needed with your own personalizations.

Subject: Please continue funding family, school, and community engagement in FY 2027

Dear **[Representative/Senator NAME]**,

I am writing as a dedicated advocate for family, school, and community engagement and as a proud member of the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement (NAFSCE).

I serve as a **[job title]** at **[organization name]**, where we work every day to support the families and communities of **[location]**. Specifically, we **[briefly describe your program's work, the number of people you serve, and, if applicable, note that you are one of [X] organizations in the area providing this critical service]**.

Programs like ours empower families to take an active role in their children's education, strengthening the connection between home and school in ways that lead to real, measurable results, including reduced chronic absenteeism and improved academic outcomes. The evidence is clear: when families are engaged, students thrive.

My program does this by...**[insert detailed information about your work]**. This work is supported by **[insert name of federal funding program, if known]**.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

(continued)

That is why I am deeply concerned about the proposed federal budget cuts threatening programs like ours. These cuts stand in direct contradiction to the Administration's stated commitment to prioritizing families and their role in children's education. To do this, more resources are needed to reach families, not less.

I am enormously proud of the work we do at **[organization name]** and honored to serve the families of **[community/state]**. On behalf of my colleagues and the families we serve, I respectfully urge you to increase funding for family engagement programs. At the very least, I urge you to protect existing funds from proposed cuts.

I would also welcome the opportunity to have you visit **[organization name]** so you can see our work firsthand and meet the students, parents, and family members whose lives are shaped by this work. Seeing it in person makes all the difference. Please let me know some times that might be convenient for you to join us.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community. I hope we can count on your support.

Regards,

[Name]

[Signature]

[Job title]

[Organization]

[Email address and/or phone]

PHONE SCRIPT

This is a script for how a conversation may go when calling your representative's office(s). When you call an office, you will probably be connected to an intern who will either directly engage you in conversation or transfer you to someone who deals with the specific issues you're calling about. Their job is to take notes about your call and report back to other office staff. Make sure you're clear about what you're calling about and any specific concerns or requests you have. Throughout the script below, we put items in brackets – **[example]** – that you should replace as needed with your own personalizations.

When someone answers:

Hi, my name is **[NAME]** and I'm a constituent calling from **[CITY/STATE]**. I am trying to speak with the staff member who handles education issues so I may discuss funding for family engagement programs in fiscal year 2027. Can you please let me know who is the best contact and connect me with them?

When connected or even if not connected:

Thank you. I'm calling on behalf of **[ORGANIZATION NAME]**, a family engagement program serving **[X]** families here in **[LOCATION]**. I'm also a member of NAFSCE, the National Association for Family, School and Community Engagement.

I'm calling to urge **[MEMBER NAME]** to protect funding for family engagement programs. Proposed fiscal year 2027 budget cuts would directly harm the families and students we serve every day and that impact will be felt right here in **[district/state]**. As the budget process continues, I urge you to fight for these programs that support families in your **[district/state]** because without federal funds we will not be able to serve all constituents.

Beyond the budget, I'd also love to invite **[MEMBER NAME]** and any staff to visit our program and see the work firsthand. Whether it's DC-based staff or local staff, we would love to host you to connect with the students and families. When would be a good time for you to visit?

PHONE SCRIPT

(continued)

To close:

Can you let me know your best email address so I can follow up in the future? Can I also leave my contact information in case the office has questions or wants to schedule a visit?

Note: Get the name and email of the person you spoke to so you can follow-up directly and begin to build a relationship.

If the conversation continues and there is an opening, reiterate key points:

Note: These are examples of things you might include in any discussion that may continue.

- Is there a date that **[Representative/Senator name]** will be in **[name of town/city]** area that we can perhaps schedule a visit?
- Can I count on **[Representative/Senator name]** to fight for family, school, and community engagement during budget negotiations?
- When would be a good time to discuss family engagement services with you again?

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Below are a few sample social media posts. Remember to tag the accounts of your elected officials so they see the post and can interact! Find your Members' social media accounts [here](#). We put items in brackets below – **[example]** – that you should replace as needed with your own personalizations.

Make sure you use the hashtag #FundFamilyEngagement and tag NAFSCE along with other family engagement partners. Below are NAFSCE's social media pages.

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Post 1 — Urgency

Family engagement programs are on the chopping block. Cuts to these programs don't just affect budgets, they affect real students, real families, and real communities. Congress must act. **[@tagmember]** please fight for family engagement funding in FY 2027. 🚩

#FundFamilyEngagement #NAFSCE

Post 2 — Personal/Story-Driven

Every day, programs like ours show up for families helping parents support their children's education, bridging the gap between home and school, and building stronger communities. Proposed budget cuts threaten to undo that work. We're calling on Congress and **[@tagmember]** to protect and increase funding for family engagement programs in FY 2027 so we can serve more of our community.

#FundFamilyEngagement #NAFSCE

*****Feel free to add data or personalize more. Facebook and LinkedIn are great platforms to provide more detail and photos.**

SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Post 3 — Call to Action (Suggested photo caption)

Students thrive when families are engaged. 📖 Families are strongest when they're supported. 💪 Programs like ours make both possible.

Right now, Congress is deciding whether to cut the funding that makes this work possible. We can't let that happen.

Contact **[@tagmember]** and tell them to protect family engagement funding. 👉

#FamilyEngagementFunding
#AdvocateForFamilies #NAFSCE
#EducationMatters

Post 4 — Data-Forward

The research is clear: family engagement leads to better attendance, stronger academic outcomes, and healthier school communities. So why are millions of dollars in funding for these programs being proposed for cuts?

Congress needs to stand with students and families. Fight for increased family engagement program funding in FY 2027 so we can serve more families.

[@tagmember]

#FamilyEngagementFunding
#EducationPolicy #NAFSCE



TELL CONGRESS TO:

**FUND
FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT**



#FundFamilyEngagement



TELL CONGRESS TO:

**REJECT PROPOSED
CUTS TO FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT**



#FundFamilyEngagement

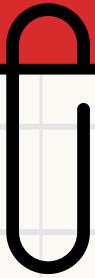


PRIORITIZE FAMILIES

FUND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



#FundFamilyEngagement



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
=
IMPROVED STUDENT
OUTCOMES

Tell Congress to #FundFamilyEngagement

