PTA URGES CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS 
AND INVEST IN MEANINGFUL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

WHO WE ARE
PTA is a network of millions of families, students, teachers, administrators and business and community leaders devoted to the well-being and educational success of all children. We are the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America, with a presence in every state and 18,000 PTA units across the country and abroad.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR
Family engagement matters for student success—students whose families are engaged tend to have better attendance, fewer behavioral challenges, earn better grades on average and are more likely to graduate. Parents and guardians provide important perspectives on decisions impacting children, families and schools and are key partners in the educational success and well-being of all children. Now more than ever, it is critical that policymakers include parents at the table and prioritize meaningful and inclusive family engagement throughout policy.

PTA Urges Congress to Strengthen Family Engagement in Future ESEA Reauthorization

➔ The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is the main law outlining the federal role in education and was last reauthorized almost a decade ago.

➔ Congress must build upon key provisions included in the law to provide the guidance and tools schools need to meaningfully communicate and collaborate with families. This includes:
   
   o A larger percent of funding (5%) set aside for family engagement work under Title I.
   o Improved communication with families, including encouraging outreach to harder-to-reach families and improved accessibility of communications.
   o Providing schools and districts with the funding, tools and resources to effectively address barriers to participation.
   o Strengthening the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) program to enable a center in every state.
   o Clarity around existing requirements and improved monitoring and accountability.

➔ The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions and the House Committee on Education & the Workforce will be key to advancing this legislation. Check if your member of Congress serves on these committees: Senate HELP Committee; House Education & Workforce Committee.
PTA Urges Members of the U.S. House to Co-Sponsor the Bill of Rights for Students and Parents (H.Res.219)

➔ Over the last few years, there has been increased interest from policymakers in uplifting the parent voice and strengthening family engagement in our nation’s education system.

➔ What is most needed are policies that emphasize inclusive and meaningful family engagement and promote safe, welcoming, supportive and inclusive schools for all students and families.

➔ The Bill of Rights for Students and Parents Resolution (H.Res.219) would affirm the commitment of Congress to promoting meaningful and inclusive family involvement in K-12 education, as well as commit to building safe, welcoming, supportive and inclusive schools across the nation. Check if your member of Congress is a co-sponsor: H.Res.219.

PTA Urges Congress to Fund SFECs at $25 Million

➔ Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) provide technical assistance, partnership development, direct resources and services to help ensure that families across the country are meaningfully supported and engaged in their child’s education.

➔ The program has historically enjoyed bipartisan support and demonstrated success. Check if your member of Congress is already on record supporting the program here.

➔ The SFEC program currently funds grants in several states (see if your state has an SFEC here). $25 million would enable all existing centers to continue and provide new states with the opportunity to engage in this great work.

Questions? Email National PTA Director of Government Affairs Kate Clabaugh (kclabaugh@PTA.org).