

Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs)

PTA and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



Students with engaged families:



Attend school more regularly



Earn better grades



Enroll in advanced-level programs



Have higher graduation rates¹

What is the Statewide Family Engagement Centers competitive grant program?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFEC) program, which provides competitive federal grants to statewide organizations to promote and implement evidenced-based family engagement strategies. If the SFEC program is funded, applications for these competitive grants can be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by statewide organizations such as non-profits or by groups of statewide organizations that have demonstrated involvement in engaging families in their child's education and experience working with state-level agencies, communities, organizations and schools on family engagement policies and practices.

Support Funding for Statewide Family Engagement Centers!

Why do Statewide Family Engagement Centers need funding?



Schools would need to increase spending by more than \$1,000 per pupil to gain the same results as effective family engagement.²



Teachers are more likely to remain in schools where families are involved and where they are able to develop trusting relationships with families.³

1 of 5

Students attending schools that embed family engagement as one of five essential components for improvement have seen greater results in math and reading.¹

What do Statewide Family Engagement Centers do?

Statewide Family Engagement Centers have three core functions:

1. Work with state and local-level agencies to support family engagement.
2. Provide professional development to school districts and educators on evidence-based and effective family engagement strategies and practices.
3. Provide direct services to families on how to effectively work with their child's school and teachers to improve their child's academic outcomes and overall well-being.

National PTA's Ask

National PTA requests that Congress fund the Statewide Family Engagement Centers (SFECs) grant program at a robust funding level—no less than its authorized level of \$10 million set as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (L-HHS-ED) appropriations bill.

1. Henderson, A. T., & Mapp, K. L. (2002). A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement. Annual Synthesis 2002. National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools. Retrieved from <https://www.seidl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>
2. Houtenville, A. and K.S. Conway. (2008). Parental Effort, School Resources, and Student Achievement. Journal of Human Resources, XLIII. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press. Retrieved from <http://www.nspira.org/files/docs/conway-may08.pdf>
3. Allensworth, E, S. Ponisciak, and C. Mazzeo. (2009). The Schools Teachers Leave: Teacher Mobility in Chicago Public Schools. Chicago, IL: Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute. Retrieved from https://consortium.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/publications/CCSR_Teacher_Mobility.pdf