

Nevada Department of Education Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Annual Report 2019

July 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019

Pursuant to [NRS 385.635\(2\)](#), the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (Office) shall prepare a report, on or before August 1 of each year, which includes:

- a summary of the status of the progress made by the school districts and public schools in effectively involving parents and families in the education of their children
- an identification of any areas where further improvement is needed
- the activities of the Office during the immediately preceding school year, including the progress made by the Office, in consultation with the Advisory Council for Family Engagement (Council), in assisting the school districts and public schools with increasing the effectiveness of involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children

Pursuant to [NRS 385.635\(3\)\(b\)](#), the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) shall post the report prepared by the Office on its [website](#).

Report on Office Duties Pursuant to NRS 385.635

[NRS 385.635\(a\)](#)

Review and evaluate the programs implemented by the school districts and public schools, including, without limitation, programs which are supported in part with money received from the Federal Government, for carrying out and increasing parental involvement and family engagement in the public schools. The review and evaluation must include an identification of current strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- In January 2019, the Office assisted the Office of Student and School Supports (OSSS) in the NDE with its review of competitive multi-grant applications. The competitive multi-grant application included federal and state grants (Title I 1003(a), Read by Grade 3, Turnaround, College and Career Readiness), which have allowable uses for family engagement activities and programs. When reviewing applications, the Office ensured family engagement activities and programs seeking funds were evidence-based and effective in increasing parental involvement and family engagement.
- In April 2019, the Office shared with the Council its new review process for district family engagement policies, which are required by districts who receive Title I funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116. Moving forward, the Council, in collaboration with the Office, will review district family engagement policies and advise districts on how to improve their family engagement policies to meet federal requirements, while implementing best practice.
- During spring 2019, the Office collaborated with the NDE's School Improvement Grant (SIG) coordinator to assist schools awarded SIG federal funds craft their School Performance Plan (SPP). The

Office provided technical assistance to SIG schools to ensure family engagement was a required integrated component of SIG schools' SPPs.

- During spring 2019, the Office collaborated with the OSSS to assist schools designated Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools under the ESSA. The Office helped ensure that family engagement was a required integrated component of CSI schools' SPPs. The Office provided technical assistance to CSI schools from various districts, along with other NDE offices, while they crafted their SPP.
- In May 2019, the Office, in collaboration with the Council and District Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) Liaisons, published the [first annual collection of family engagement promising practices](#). The publication was created to highlight effective family engagement practices and strategies occurring in Nevada that align with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which were adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education in 2015 as a part of Nevada's Policy on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. The publication will be updated and released every year before the start of the school year to serve as a resource for schools and districts that are looking to improve or increase their family engagement efforts.

[NRS 385.635\(b\)](#)

Develop a list of practices which have been proven effective in increasing the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children, including, without limitation, practices that increase the ability of school districts and public schools to effectively reengage parents and families and provide those parents and families with the skills and resources necessary to support the academic achievement of their children.

- Through ongoing dialogue; presentations from districts, schools, community-based organizations, and national organizations; and participation in forums, seminars, and conferences, the Office and Council have identified the following practices, when implemented correctly, as being high impact and effective in increasing the engagement of families in the education of their children:
 - [Academic Parent-Teacher Teams](#)
 - [Dual Capacity-Building Framework](#)
 - [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#)
 - [Panorama Education](#)
 - [Parent Teacher Home Visits](#)
- In May 2019, the Office, in collaboration with the Council and District Parental Involvement and Family Engagement PIFE Liaisons, published the [first annual collection of family engagement promising practices](#). The publication was created to highlight effective family engagement practices and strategies occurring in Nevada that align with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which were adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education in 2015 as a part of Nevada's Policy on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. The publication will be updated and released every year before the start of the school year to serve as a resource for schools and districts that are looking to improve or increase their family engagement efforts.
- In spring 2018, the NDE partnered with the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) to form a State Consortium on Family Engagement with 12 other states. One of the goals of the State Consortium is for each state to develop, with stakeholder input, its own family engagement framework. Based on

stakeholder feedback, Nevada’s framework will align with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships and the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. It will also include a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies. Schools and districts will be able to use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives and policies.

NRS 385.635(c)

Work in cooperation with the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs in carrying out the duties of the Office, including, without limitation, the establishment of a statewide training program concerning parental involvement and family engagement required pursuant to [NRS 391A.135](#).

- During fall of 2018, the Office collaborated with the Regional Professional Development Programs to develop a statewide parental involvement and family engagement training program that is aligned with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which were adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education in 2015 as a part of Nevada’s Policy on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement.

NRS 385.635(d)

Provide information to the school districts and public schools on the availability of competitive grants for programs which offer:

- (1) Professional development for educational personnel on practices to reengage disengaged parents and families in the education of their children;
- (2) Training for parents and families in skills of leadership and volunteerism;
- (3) Family literacy training;
- (4) Home visitation programs to encourage the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children; and
- (5) Other innovative programs that are designed to increase the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the academic achievement of their children.

- The Office consistently searches for grant opportunities related to family engagement to inform school districts and public schools of their availability. Grant opportunities are then shared with District PIFE Liaisons during bi-monthly webinars. Liaisons and other public school employees receive grant opportunities via email when grant deadlines are due before scheduled webinars.
- The Office provides links to grant information websites and agencies on its [webpage](#). Schools and districts have access to these links throughout the year.

NRS 385.635(e)

Provide support to those school districts which have established an advisory council on parental involvement and family engagement pursuant to [NRS 385.625](#) and encourage those school districts which have not established such an advisory council to consider creating an advisory council for the school district.

- The following school districts have established advisory councils for parental involvement and family engagement:
 - Carson City – Family Life Advisory Council
 - Clark – Trustee Parent Advisory Councils (7)
 - Douglas – Parent Advisory Committee
 - Humboldt – Parent Advisory Panels (2)
 - Lincoln – Parent Advisory Councils (9 – each school has a PAC)

- Lyon – Site Parent Advisory Councils (17), Area PACs (5), and District PAC (1)
- Washoe – Council on Family Engagement

The Office will encourage school districts that have not yet established advisory councils for parental involvement and family engagement to establish a council. Interested districts will be connected with PIFE District Liaisons to determine the feasibility of establishing an advisory council in their district. The Office will continue to familiarize itself with Open Meeting Law to aide school districts in maximizing family and community engagement during council meetings.

NRS 385.635(f)

Build the capacity of public schools to work in collaboration with parents to establish policies for the involvement of parents and the engagement of families, including, without limitation, policies that focus on partnerships between public schools and the parents and families of children enrolled in public schools and the empowerment of parents and families in support of the education of their children.

- In spring 2018 the NDE partnered with the CCSSO and the NAFSCE to form a State Consortium on Family Engagement with 12 other states. One of the goals of the State Consortium is for each state to develop, with stakeholder input, its own family engagement framework. Based on stakeholder feedback, Nevada’s framework will align with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships and the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. It will also include a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies. Schools and districts will be able to use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives and policies.
- In May 2018, the Office released an initial draft of its Title I, Section 1116 family engagement handbook. The handbook is a resource Title I schools and districts can use to help meet the federal requirements under Title I, Section 1116 while still implementing best practice. The handbook provides resources for schools and districts to assist in the creation of their district family engagement policies, school family engagement policies, and school-parent compacts. The handbook will be updated periodically to best meet the needs of schools and districts.
- The State Board of Education adopted the Nevada Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy on September 3, 2015. The Office provides an overview of the Policy and consistently references the Policy during its PIFE webinars and when meeting with administrators and District PIFE Liaisons so they too can use it as a guide for their family engagement initiatives and policies.
- The Dual Capacity-Building Framework is a framework the Office uses as a guide for its work. The Office provides an overview of the framework and consistently references the framework during its PIFE webinars and when meeting with administrators and District PIFE Liaisons so they too can use it as a guide for their family engagement initiatives and policies.

NRS 385.635(g)

Work in cooperation with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education in developing the regulations required by paragraph (k) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 and monitoring the implementation of those regulations.

- Pursuant to NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.030, effective July 2015, initial licensees require at least three semester hours of coursework related to parental involvement and family engagement that are consistent with the elements and goals for effective involvement and engagement set forth in NRS 392.457 and

includes an emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families, and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse backgrounds. Initial licensees have three years to remove the provision from their license.

- The Office, in collaboration with the Office of Educator Licensure (OEL), created a system for reviewing Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) courses to ensure they meet the requirements set forth in NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045. Courses that are determined to satisfy the licensure requirement can be found on the Office's [webpage](#). Additionally, the Office and the OEL are working to improve the webpage's ease of use for educators who are interested in knowing more about the licensure requirement, the courses that satisfy the requirement, and how to contact each IHE institution about a course offering.
- In July 2019, the Office participated in a panel at the Institute for Educational Leadership's National Family and Community Engagement Conference. The panel included a teacher from the WCSD, a Nevada Assemblywoman, an Office representative, and an administrator from the University of Nevada, Reno. The reason for the panel was to highlight the pre-service parental involvement and family engagement licensure requirement for all initial licensees in Nevada. Many states see Nevada as a leader in the field when it comes to family engagement, which includes its pre-service learning requirement.

[NRS 385.635\(h\)](#)

Establish, in collaboration with the State Board, guidelines to assist parents and families in helping their children achieve the standards of content and performance adopted by the State Board pursuant to [NRS 389.520](#).

- The State Board of Education adopted a [Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy](#) on September 3, 2015. This policy was drafted by the Council with support from the NDE.

[NRS 385.635\(i\)](#)

Collaborate with the Nevada State Parent Information and Resource Center, the Parent Training and Information Centers, the Nevada Parent Teacher Association, the Advisory Council and the teachers who are trained to serve as liaisons to parents and legal guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools to plan and implement a statewide summit on parental involvement and family engagement, which must be held at least biennially. After each summit, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement shall evaluate the success of the summit in consultation with the entities identified in this paragraph.

- In September 2018, the Office, in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, planned and implemented the biennial family engagement statewide summit in Reno, Nevada. Over 480 educators, parents, families, and community members registered for the summit. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from keynote speaker Dr. Victor Rios and the option to choose from over 30 unique workshops. Workshops were led by local and national family engagement experts. Child care was provided to families who attended. Educators who attended the summit received professional development credit as well.
- In December 2018, the Office presented to the Council summit attendee survey results. The results were also shared with the summit steering committee, which helped in the planning and implementation of the summit. A link to the report can be found [here](#).

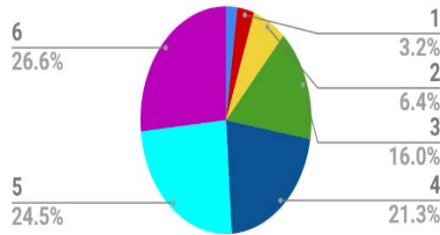
[NRS 385.635\(j\)](#)

Assist each school district and the public schools within the school district with incorporating strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement into the plans to improve the achievement of pupils prepared by the public schools pursuant to [NRS 385A.650](#).

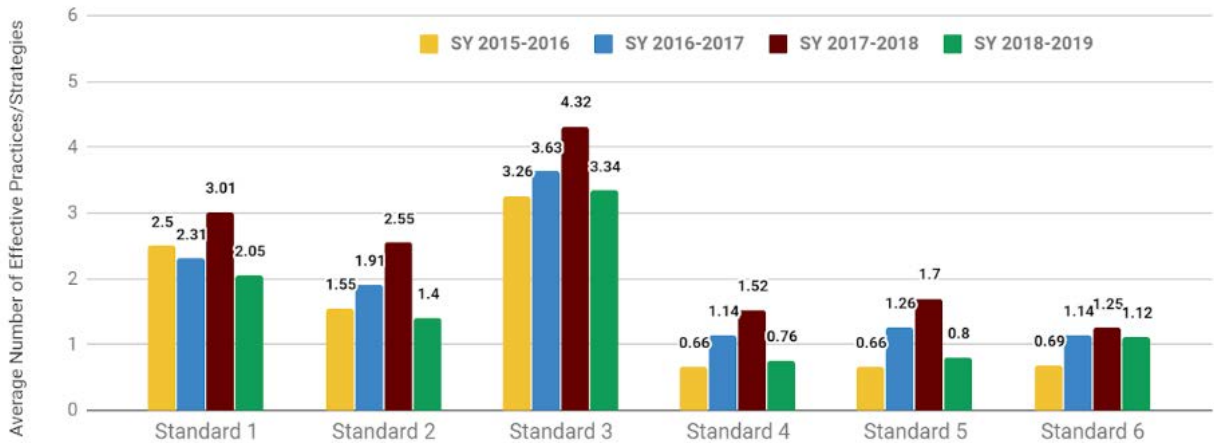
- In spring 2018 the NDE partnered with the CCSSO and the NAFSCE to form a State Consortium on Family Engagement with 12 other states. One of the goals of the State Consortium is for each state to develop, with stakeholder input, its own family engagement framework. Based on stakeholder feedback, Nevada’s framework will align with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships and the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. It will also include a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies. Schools and districts will be able to use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives and policies.
- During spring 2019, the Office collaborated with the NDE’s SIG coordinator to assist schools awarded SIG federal funds craft their SPP. The Office provided technical assistance to SIG schools to ensure family engagement was a required integrated component of SIG schools’ SPPs.
- During spring 2019, the Office collaborated with the OSSS to assist schools designated CSI schools under the ESSA. The Office helped ensure that family engagement was a required integrated component of CSI schools’ SPPs. The Office provided technical assistance to CSI schools from various districts, along with other NDE offices, while they crafted their SPP.
- In May 2019, the Office presented at the NDE’s MEGA Conference. The MEGA Conference is a three-day conference that provides attendees with opportunities to engage in meaningful discussions, participate in in-depth training sessions, and learn from leading experts in fields across the education spectrum. The Office collaborated with the Family-School Partnership Department in the WCSD to facilitate a workshop at the conference on the importance of embedding and integrating family engagement into a school or district’s overall school plan. The workshop also was an opportunity for the Office to highlight WCSD’s family literacy program as an example of how to integrate and embed a family engagement initiative into district or school’s overall plan.
- In May 2019, the Office presented at a convening of district federal programs directors on the research behind family engagement and initial draft release of its Title I, Section 1116 family engagement handbook. The handbook is a resource Title I schools and districts can use to help meet the federal requirements under Title I, Section 1116 while still implementing best practice. The handbook provides resources for schools and districts to assist in the creation of their district family engagement policies, school family engagement policies, and school-parent compacts. The handbook will be updated periodically to best meet the needs of schools and districts.
- The Office conducts bi-monthly webinars with District PIFE Liaisons to provide NDE, Office, and Legislative updates; professional development on topics of interest; grant opportunities; and resources. The Office encourages districts and schools to embed and integrate effective family engagement practices and strategies into their overall school and district plans. Recently, the Office has opened up the webinar to other district personnel who are interested in building their capacity in family engagement.
- The Office review SPPs from previously identified Rising Stars schools in Nevada. Upon review, it was determined that 27% of Rising Stars schools were using practices and strategies in all six of the Nevada

Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy. That is a decrease of 31 percentage points compared to the previous school year. The breakdown of family engagement standards is below.

Total Number of Observed Family Engagement Standards



Average Number of Observed Effective Family Engagement Practices and Strategies per Family Engagement Standard



The Office concluded that its current evaluation process of SPPs is limited by what schools include in their plans, which often is not all inclusive of what a school does and institutes overall. Despite the dip in progress compared to the previous year, there is a notable trend. Schools have a more difficult time in finding and using strategies within Standards 4, 5, and 6. The Office will work with the Council and District PIFE Liaisons to provide greater support (practices and strategies) within these specific standards.

- The Office and OSSS have agreed to collaborate when the SPP template is reformatted to ensure schools embed and integrate family engagement practices and strategies into their overall school plan.

NRS 385.635(k)(1)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability prepared by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to [NRS 385A.070](#) relating to parental involvement and family engagement in the school districts and public schools;

- The Office collaborates with the Council to review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability of each district by requesting each district present to the Council at least once every three years their family engagement policy, programs, and initiatives.

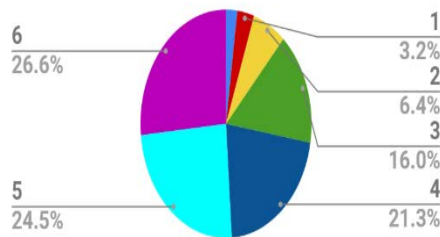
- The Office will collaborate with the NDE’s Office of Assessment, Data, and Accountability Management in fall of 2019 to create a guide for districts when submitting their Annual Report as it relates to family engagement. This will allow the Office and Council to more effectively review and evaluate district Annual Reports.

NRS 385.635(k)(2)

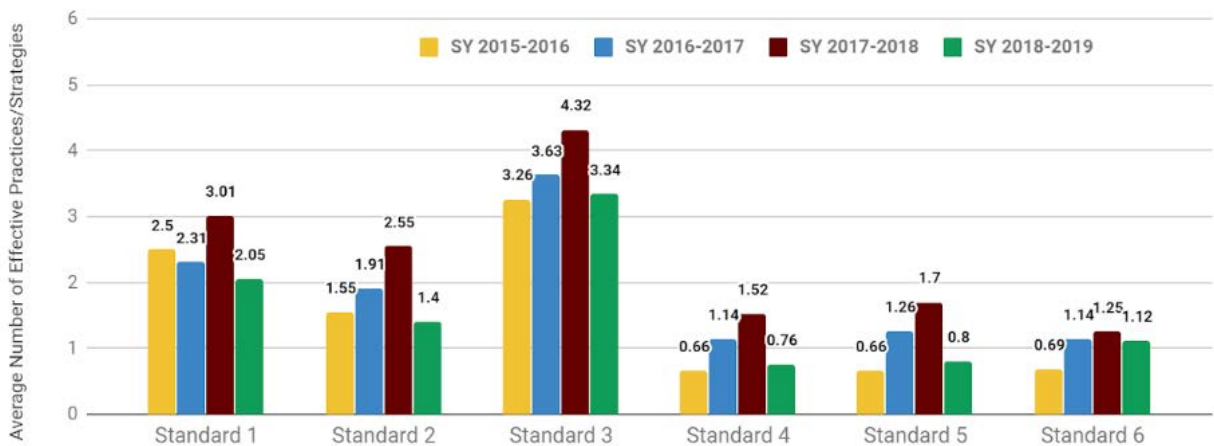
Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to review and evaluate the plans to improve the achievement of pupils prepared by each public school pursuant to [NRS 385A.650](#) relating to the strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement incorporated into the plans; and

- The Office review SPPs from previously identified Rising Stars schools in Nevada. Upon review, it was determined that 27% of Rising Stars schools were using practices and strategies in all six of the Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy. That is a decrease of 31 percentage points compared to the previous school year. The breakdown of family engagement standards is below.

Total Number of Observed Family Engagement Standards



Average Number of Observed Effective Family Engagement Practices and Strategies per Family Engagement Standard



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NRS 385.635(k)(3)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council review the status of the implementation of the provisions of this section and the effectiveness of the Office in carrying out the duties prescribed in this section.

- The Office was created in 2011 ([AB 224](#)) and staffed in 2012. Since its inception, it has worked closely with the Council to carry out its duties. The Council reviews the Office’s annual report every August to consider the necessity for the Office and its effectiveness in carrying out its duties prescribed in NRS. The Office’s work would not be possible without the assistance of the Council and vice versa. The Council and Office also work closely to:
 - prepare Council agendas and materials
 - ensure the Council is informed of state and national family engagement best practices and strategies
 - communicate family engagement best practices and strategies to District PIFE Liaisons and other school/district personnel
 - plan and implement the biennial statewide summit

NRS385.635(3)(a)

The Department shall post on its internet website the list of practices developed by the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1;

- The Office [webpage](#) has been reorganized to allow families, school and district staff easy access to many resources that promote effective family engagement strategies.

NRS 385.635(3)(b)

The report prepared by the Office pursuant to subsection 2;

- Annual reports can be found and [here](#). Older reports can also be requested at the link provided.

NRS 385.635(3)(c)

Any other information that the Office finds useful for the school districts, public schools, parents, families and general public relating to effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- In June 2019, after engaging with over 400 stakeholders across the state representing educators, parents, families, and community members, the Department created a common statewide definition for family engagement. See Appendix A for definition.
- The Office engages in ongoing dialogue with other State Education Authority (SEA) family engagement leaders to discuss family engagement resources and best practices. The group and its monthly calls are facilitated by Lacy Wood from the American Institute for Research. By participating in these monthly phone calls, the Office has the opportunity to connect with several states to learn how Nevada can increase the number of families engaged in their child’s education. Information is shared with the Council during meetings and is uploaded on the [website](#).
- The Office participated in a focus group facilitated by the American Institute for Research to update the National PTA Family-School Partnership Standards. The Office suggested that the Standards be updated to have a greater focus on equity, a vision and mission statement, more examples of effective family

engagement strategies and practices within the Standards, and institute language that is more inclusive and friendly to families.

What is Family Engagement?



Family Engagement

is a shared responsibility between schools, families, and communities where *all* receive equitable access to tools and supports needed to successfully work together toward the development of children and youth for college, career, and lifelong learning.

Informed by Nevada parents, families, educators, and community

2019



THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

¿Qué es la participación familiar?



La participación familiar

es una responsabilidad compartida entre las escuelas, las familias y las comunidades donde *todos* reciben acceso equitativo a los apoyos y los recursos necesarios para trabajar juntos con éxito en el desarrollo de los niños y los jóvenes para la universidad, la carrera y el aprendizaje de por vida.

Informado por padres, familias, educadores y comunidades de Nevada

2019



EL DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACIÓN DE NEVADA