



NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of STATE LEGISLATURES

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2013-2014 SELECT ENACTED LEGISLATION FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

Selected legislation enacted in 2013 and 2014 concerning family engagement covers a variety of areas. Several states appropriated funds to establish grants and programs to increase family engagement (Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee and West Virginia). Other states aimed to increase access to school information and resources (Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Tennessee and Utah). Delaware, Idaho and Washington enacted legislation aimed towards accountability and streamlining family engagement processes. Connecticut, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Utah all enacted bills on parents' rights in education. In addition, Illinois enacted anti-bullying legislation, and Minnesota enacted on policy increasing culturally -relevant practices for diverse families.

State/ Jurisdiction	Bill Number	Associated Bills	Author	Year	Summary
Alaska	S 57		Stevens	2013	Relates to parental involvement in education; requires each school district to annually provide to parents and guardians of public school students enrolled in kindergarten through grade three current information about the importance of early literacy, including home literacy plans.
Arkansas	S 1051		Elliott	2013	Establishes the Whole Child-Whole Community Recognition Program; establishes a Whole Child-Whole Community Recognition Working Group to create a framework for recognizing community and state efforts to ensure all children receive comprehensive support of the whole community.
Arkansas	S 1064		Flowers	2013	Amends the Arkansas code concerning parental involvement plans for public schools; provides for placement in student handbooks of a parent-friendly version of school district parental involvement plans.
Colorado	H 1007		Peniston	2013	Concerns re-creation of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative

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					Commission, which was created for the purpose of policy improvement related to early childhood and school readiness, including the areas of health, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning.
Colorado	S 193		Hudak	2013	Provides that school district accountability committees have the power and duty to increase parent engagement in public schools; requires parent engagement activities to include assisting school personnel to increase parent engagement with educators, including engagement in creating truancy plans; provides that a committee has the duty to publicize and hold certain meetings and hearings; and makes changes to provisions relating to school improvement, turnaround plans and charter schools.
Connecticut	H 5562		Joint Committee on Education	2014	Requires boards of education to inform parents and guardians of their right to withhold enrolling their child in kindergarten.
Connecticut	S 106		Joint Committee on Human Services	2014	Allows for development of a grant program to create and implement a strategy to promote and enhance the social and emotional well-being and health of children in preschool through third grade, with a focus on instructional tools and family engagement.
Delaware	S 147		Townsend	2013	Requires each charter school to produce an annual report for the school year and discuss the innovation occurring at the charter school, including but not limited to, the areas of curriculum development, instruction, student culture and discipline, community and parental involvement, teacher and staff development, school operations and management, and extracurricular and after-school programming.
Hawaii	S 26	HCR 57 (Ohno)	Tokuda	2013	Requests the Board of Education and Department of Education to continue to collaborate with family and community organizations to establish, implement and monitor statewide policies for family-school partnerships in Hawaii's public schools.
Idaho	H 521		House Education	2014	Provides for a strategic plan that each school district and public charter school in Idaho shall develop and maintain that focuses on improving the

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			Committee		student performance of the district or public charter school; provides for inclusion of students, parents, educators and the community as appropriate; provides for key indicators for monitoring progress; and provides for public posting.
Illinois	H 129		Welch	2013	Amends the School Code; permits all school boards to designate a specified date of each year as Bring Your Parents to School Day to promote parental involvement and student success; provides that, on this day, a school board may permit the parents or guardians of students to attend class with their children and meet with teachers and administrators during the school day.
Illinois	H 5707		Cassidy	2014	Relates to bullying; makes changes concerning creation, maintenance and implementation of a policy on bullying; deletes a requirement that each school district, charter school and non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school must annually communicate its policy on bullying to its students and their parent or guardian; requires collection of certain information; and requires that certain information be made available on an Internet website.
Illinois	HR 826		Gabel	2014	Resolves to strengthen the state's commitment to engage parents to play an active role in their children's early education. Urges human services, health care, education and justice authorities to include parenting education and early childhood education funding in their budgets. Urges the State Department of Education to consider a required course in parenting education as part of the prerequisite for a high school diploma.
Indiana	S 422		Rogers	2013	Establishes the Family Friendly School Designation Program; requires the Department of Education, in consultation with statewide organizations that link family engagement to student achievement to develop the program; provides that the department may designate a school as a family friendly school if the department determines that the school has established parental engagement practices that increase parental involvement and foster high student achievement.
Louisiana	H 115		James	2013	Relates to schools transferred to the Recovery School District; provides for submission of petitions by parents requesting that a school be removed from

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					the district and returned to the local school system under certain conditions; and requires rules and regulations be adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for the petition process.
Louisiana	H 214		Jefferson	2013	Relates to parental involvement in public schools; authorizes and encourages public school governing authorities to create partnerships for the purpose of increasing parental involvement in schools; authorizes public school authorities to identify and encourage participation in parenting classes and to provide recognition for participation in such classes; and authorities public school governing authorities and the State Department of Education to identify available funding sources for classes.
Louisiana	H 249		Price	2014	Provides for access to child care assistance to homeless families through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program; waives requirements relative to hours of work and school engagement for homeless parents who apply for child care assistance and demonstrate that they are seeking employment or participating in a transitional living program.
Louisiana	S 312		Crowe	2014	Establishes the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools; provides parental rights to examine textbook and curriculum, access their child's school records, restrict surveys that question sexuality, religion or mental health, to be notified when medical services are offered to their child, to be notified if their child is questioned, to be notified if their child is taken from the school without parental permission and that the school will not discriminate against their child based on religious beliefs.
Maryland	S 701	H 798 (Kelly A)	Madaleno	2014	Requires a local school system to provide to the parents or guardian of a child with a disability verbal and written information about access to habilitative services at specified times; relates to individual education plans.
Massachusetts	H 3538		Report of Conference Committee	2013	Establishes and reports on the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant program, which is to establish a statewide network of supports for early education; provides that supports funded through this item are to include, but not be limited to, curriculum development, child assessment systems, activities that encourage providers to obtain associate and bachelor degrees, a school readiness and family support program known

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					as the parent-child home program, the Massachusetts Family Networks, and others.
Minnesota	H 2397		Mariani	2014	Requires Head Start programs to employ culturally -relevant early literacy development approaches, collect literacy data to monitor the progress and provide reading instruction specific to the needs of English language learners. Requires school readiness programs to assess children's language skills to improve program planning and implementation, promote kindergarten readiness, and ensure parents are knowledgeable in native and English language development programs. Also known as the LEAPS (Learning for English Academic Proficiency and Success) Act.
Nebraska	L 585		Smith	2013	Relates to learning communities; the advisory committee may recommend services to be provided through contract with, or grants to, school districts to provide or contract for some or all the services. The advisory committee shall take special efforts to establish early childhood education programs for children in poverty so that such programs are readily available and accessible to children and families located in areas with a high concentration of poverty.
New Mexico	H 2397		Sapien	2013	Relates to human services; requires the Children, Youth and Families Department to establish a home visiting program to promote parental competence; provides for the Home Visiting Accountability Act; relates to culturally and linguistically appropriate, face-to-face visits by nurses, social workers, and other early childhood and health professionals or by trained and supervised lay workers.
New York	S 7345	A 8346 (O'Donnell)	Lanza	2014	Amends the Education Law; relates to vacancies on the Community District Education Council; and expands eligibility to parents whose children have been English language learner students within the preceding two years.
New York	S 6356	A 8556	Office of the Governor	2014	Pertains to awarding of competitive grants to schools and other nonprofit organizations to expand state-of-the-art/innovative preschool programs. Applications will be evaluated on family engagement factors, among others (i.e., curriculum, learning environment).
Oklahoma	H 1384		Kern	2014	Creates the Parents' Bill of Rights; prohibits the state from infringing upon

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					parental rights; directs the board of education of a school district to develop a policy listing parental rights related to education; prohibits a surgical procedure on a minor without parental consent; prohibits a mental health evaluation of a minor without parental consent; provides exceptions; relates to immunizations; provides criminal penalties; and requires identity verification.
Oklahoma	H 3513		Martin (S)	2014	Allocates state funds for the Early Childhood Initiative and for continuation and expansion of the Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Program.
Rhode Island	S 794		Goodwin	2013	Establishes the Quality Family Child Care Act; relates to the child care assistance program and family child care providers; creates the Child Care Assistance Program Parent Advisory Council to advise the governor and the director of the Department of Administration and any provider representative regarding certain issues.
South Carolina	S 516		Peeler	2014	Requires early childhood literacy development programs to promote parent involvement and community literacy goals.
Tennessee	S 1851	H 1887 (Dennis)	Campfield	2014	Creates the Parental Involvement to End Poverty Act; relates to assistance payments to parents or caretakers; requires attendance at school conferences; provides that a parent shall participate in such support services that the child may need as determined by the department to overcome any school, family, or other barriers that may interfere with the child's and the family's ability to be successful; and provides for required hours of parenting classes.
Tennessee	S 1924		Finney L	2014	Authorizes and encourages creation of community schools; provides for the Tennessee Community Schools Act; provides for learning outside of normal school hours; and includes enrichment and additional life skill opportunities for students and families.
Tennessee	S 2559		Bowling	2014	Allows parents to review all instructional materials used in their child's classroom; mandates that a local educational agency shall allow parents access to review all teaching materials, instructional materials, handouts and other teaching aids; provides for parental review of all surveys, analyses and evaluations prior to being administered to the child, with the option to opt

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					out of student participation; and requires written consent for collection of biometric data.
Utah	H 298		Eliason	2013	Requires the State Board of Education and school districts to implement a parent seminar on various issues; requires school districts to offer an annual seminar to parents with information about substance abuse, bullying, mental health and Internet safety; requires a school district to notify charter schools located within the school district's boundaries of the parent seminar; and allows a school district to opt out.
Utah	S 103		Osmond	2014	Provides for assistance to educators and parents in teaching reading; requires a reading clinic to provide instruction to teachers in the use of technology and blended learning in providing individualized reading instruction and reading remediation; provides access to students for reading remediation and instruction services through distance learning technology; and appropriates funds.
Utah	S 122		Osmond	2014	Addresses certain rights of a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a public school; requires the local education agency to reasonably accommodate parents' requests in the following areas: retaining, teacher selection/change and class observation, among others.
Washington	H 1723		Kagi	2013	Amends an act relating to expanding and streamlining early learning services and programs; schools administering the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills may use up to three school days at the beginning of the school year to meet with parents and families as required in the parent involvement component of the inventory.
West Virginia	H 4618		Perry	2014	Establishes a transformative system of support for early literacy that includes ensuring all West Virginia children have access to high-quality early learning experiences that focus on healthy learners as part of the school readiness model, resulting in increased populations of children on target for healthy development before they enter first grade. Maximizes family engagement to result in development of a culture of literacy from birth through third grade.
District of	314		Catania	2014	Requires the Office of Ombudsman for Public Education to provide

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Columbia					complaint resolution services for students of District of Columbia public schools and their parents; establishes the Office of the Student Advocate to represent students, parents, and guardians on issues regarding public education.

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This legislative tracker is made possible by the generous support of the [Heising-Simons Foundation](#)