



Happy Global Day of Parents! This day gives us the opportunity to appreciate all parents for their selfless commitment to their children.

Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: Parents' attitudes about education can inspire their children and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey.

This week's newsletter highlights the ways states engage and collaborate with parents to further the path of success for all students.

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State Spotlights



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

New York Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia sends a biweekly email to parents covering topics relevant to families. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) routinely engages with the New York State PTA, which also distributes the letter to its members.

In addition, NYSED uses social media to engage with parents and develops parent- and family-

centered social media campaigns regularly, including campaigns to encourage summer reading, prevent summer “brain drain,” and get families excited for the beginning of the school year.

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The **Ohio** State Department of Education published research-based best practices to help schools engage parents in their children's learning such as creating a welcoming school climate, providing families information related to child development establishing effective school-to-home and home-to-school communication and much more.

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The **Mississippi** Department of Education developed Family Guide for Student Success booklets

that outline what children should know and be able to do in English language arts and mathematics at each grade level from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. Parents can use the activity booklets at home to support what their children are learning in the classroom.

Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Education, said, "Parents understand best their child's needs, strengths, abilities and interests, and they can partner with their child's teacher to provide opportunities to learn and grow."

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The **District of Columbia** Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is using parent voice to drive the design and launch of DC's new ESSA school report card website.

Working with community-based organizations and advocate partners, OSSE incorporated feedback from almost 1,900 parents on content for the report card and about 1,200 on report card layout and organization. Over the summer, OSSE and local parent engagement groups will host discussion sessions across the city to further gather feedback on parent-friendly report card language.

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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The **Arkansas** Department of Education's (ADE) Family Engagement team worked with the Council of Chief State School Officers to create a family and community engagement framework for districts and schools.

The State Board of Education Family Engagement Task Force has been working with ADE's internal team, external partners, and teachers on the Teacher Leader Advisory Group to develop this new framework with the understanding that family engagement must be the foundation to learning in all schools.

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The **Louisiana** Department of Education created the Louisiana School Finder to provide helpful information about schools that can guide families in finding the right school or early childhood center for their children.

This interactive, online tool provides families with school performance scores and early childhood performance ratings to show how well schools and centers are preparing students for the next grade level; key information about schools and centers such as their address, website, hours of operation, and principal or director's name; and listings of course offerings, clubs, and enrichment and extracurricular activities.

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Must Read

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents a unique opportunity for states to meaningfully engage parents as key stakeholders in the public education system.

CCSSO partnered with the National PTA and Learning Heroes to publish Guidelines for SEAs Engaging Parents, a guide on how to make the most of parent input and establish sustained, trusting relationships.

This guide identifies effective strategies for various types of engagement: in-person events, informative materials, and long-term partnerships, and it is designed to help states direct and make the most of their parent outreach efforts.

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Tools & Resources



This NASBE policy update, *ESSA Stakeholder Engagement: Early Challenges and Promising Practices*, provides ideas and principles to help state education agencies collaborate with school districts, principals, teachers, and importantly, parents.

These best practices help states identify diverse stakeholders, overcome resource constraints, communicate effectively, and incorporate feedback into state plans.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to communications@ccsso.org



The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:

The Council of Chief State School Officers
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National Governors Association
The National Association of State Boards of Education
National Conference of State Legislatures

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