

2021 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PRIORITY

PARENT, CAREGIVER, FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Parents, caregivers, and their children are the primary consumers of our nation and state's public education system. Over 40 years of data show that family engagement in schools has a drastic impact on student achievement and school improvement. However, many states and school districts need to make more family engagement investments and ensure parents should have a seat at the table when decisions are made and work with parents and families as partners throughout the school year.

All schools need support and engagement from parents, caregivers, families, and communities as they are all an integral part of a school's success. North Carolina PTA will continue to help facilitate and further this engagement.

North Carolina PTA will support initiatives as well as encourage and advocate for legislation and policies that:

- Encourage parents, caregivers, families, and communities to become more engaged in their children's education and help them understand the inner workings to support their education and success.
- Encourage teachers and administrators to welcome parents, caregivers, families, and communities to engage in meaningful decision-making opportunities centering on their child.
- Encourage elected officials to support ongoing parental and family engagement in public schools by providing special funding for parenting and family skill-development and other educational opportunities to support their child's education.
- Ensure state and local education agencies and schools use federal funding to support evidence-based family engagement programs as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Provide ongoing training and professional development on effective family engagement practices for educators and school-based personnel.
- Include evidence-based family engagement strategies throughout the entire education continuum from early childhood through postsecondary exploration and career opportunities.
- Support meaningful engagement of parents and families at the state, district, and school level, on an ongoing basis, in the creation of education policies, especially those that directly impact students and families.