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**ESEA Misses Key Ingredient to Student Success**

Washington, DC – (date). The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) today called on federal education policy leaders to make family and school engagement a priority in their efforts to improve America's schools.

“Strong family and school ties is one of five essential supports for creating effective schools,” said Vito Borrello, Executive Director of NAFSCE citing research by Anthony Bryk. “If we really want to turn around low-performing schools and close the achievement gap, parents, teachers, schools and communities must work together to support children's learning. We need to treat parents and families as valued partners, not adversaries; as part of the solution, not the problem,” Borrello added.

According to Borrello, many schools use outdated approaches to family involvement that have little or no demonstrated effect on learning. “It's time we replaced no- and low-impact activities with high impact strategies and programs that are designed to improve student achievement,” said Borrello. “Engaged families are more than bake sales and good public relations.” Borrello went on to point out that the last 10 years have seen the emergence of effective family engagement practices tied to student achievement and school improvement, but federal and state education initiatives have not made their adoption a priority for schools.

In a policy statement issued today, NAFSCE offered five recommendations to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of family engagement in Title I of ESEA:

- Integrate family engagement into all aspects of school improvement;
- Link all efforts to engage families to improving student learning; such as aligning school-parent compacts with achievement data and school improvement goals;
- Create incentives and build capacity of State and Local Education Agencies to identify and adopt high-impact family, school, and community engagement programs and practices;
- Increase the Title I, Section 1118 set-aside for family engagement from one to two percent;
- Include the knowledge and skills to engage families in Title I, Section 1119 on teacher qualifications.

“While the immediate status for a vote on ESEA Reauthorization is in question, we hope that Congress will take the opportunity presented by the reauthorization to recognize and strengthen the role of family engagement in assuring a quality education for all our children,” said Borrello.

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*NAFSCE.* The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) was launched in September, 2014 to advance high impact policy and practice to promote child development and student achievement. For more information and to register for the listserv, go to [www.NAFSCE.org](http://www.NAFSCE.org).

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