



# 2023 Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Annual Report

August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023

## Annual Report Requirements – [Nevada Revised Statutes \(NRS\) 385.635\(2\)\(b\) and 385.635\(3\)\(b\)](#)

The Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE Office) is required to provide a summary of the PIFE Office’s activities during the previous school year, including the progress made by the PIFE Office, in consultation with the Advisory Council for Family Engagement (FE Council), in assisting districts and schools with increasing the effectiveness of involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children.

The report is required to be completed on or before August 1 of each year and posted on the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) website.

- A summary of the PIFE Office’s activities during the previous school year, including the progress made by the PIFE Office in consultation with the FE Council in assisting districts and schools with increasing the effectiveness of involving and parents and engaging families in the education of their children is included in this report.
- The report can be found on NDE’s [PIFE Office webpage](#), underneath the *Annual Report* section.

## Districts and Schools Family Engagement Progress and Identified Areas of Improvement – [NRS 385.635\(2\)\(a\)](#)

The PIFE Office is required to prepare a report that includes a summary of the progress made by districts and schools in effectively involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children; and an identification of any areas where further improvement is needed.

### ***Districts and Schools Family Engagement Progress***

Districts and schools in Nevada have made progress in effectively involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children.

- The offering of parent communication platforms like ClassDojo, Remind, and ClassTag have allowed educators and families to communicate with each other more readily regarding the progress of the student.
- Districts and schools also are more cognizant of the needs of students and families, especially due to the learned impact of the coronavirus pandemic of 2019 (COVID-19). Resources have been allocated to proactively identify student and family needs.

- The outreach to families and the community to identify additional needs and inform districts and schools' improvement and funding plans has seen an increase in effort.

### ***Identified Areas of Improvement***

- Due to the increased use of parent communication platforms, the variety of parent communication platforms used by districts and schools has also increased. To help balance the use of these parent communication platforms by parents, since parents may have children at multiple schools, it is advised that districts and schools identify and choose only one or two platforms to use. This will alleviate the burden on parents having to juggle multiple parent communication apps on their device(s).
- It is important to have in place two-way communication processes between districts, schools, and families. It is critical for families to be able to communicate with the district, school, or teacher and have the appropriate language accommodation services readily available.
- Districts and schools should offer more opportunities for families to learn more about navigating the school system. This includes:
  - teaching families how to use district and school devices and apps;
  - informing families of resources and services are available to them and their child(ren);
  - teaching families how to support their child at home with school;
  - informing parents of their rights as it relates to the education of their child; and
  - asking families what information they would like to learn more about regarding the school system.

### **Family Engagement Program Review – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(a\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to review and evaluate programs implemented by districts and schools, including programs that are supported in part with money received from the federal government for carrying out and increasing parental involvement and family engagement in schools. The review and evaluation must include an identification of current strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- Through ongoing dialogue; presentations from districts, schools, community-based organizations, and national organizations; and participation in forums, seminars, and conferences, the PIFE Office has identified the following practices in Nevada districts and schools, when implemented correctly, as being high-impact and effective in increasing the engagement of families in the education of their children (some of these programs and practices have been or can be implemented using federal funds):
  - [Academic Parent-Teacher Teams](#)
    - Researched-based model
  - [Communities in Schools, Nevada \(Integrated Student Supports Model\)](#)
    - Included on [NDE's Evidence-Based Interventions for School Transformation List](#)
  - [Community Schools](#)

- Research- and evidence-based model
- [Dual Capacity-Building Framework](#)
  - Research-based framework
- [National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#)
  - National family engagement standards
- [Panorama Education](#)
  - Harvard designed survey to solicit families' feedback and inform improvement steps
- [Parent Teacher Home Visits \(Relationship-Building Home Visits\)](#)
  - Included on [NDE's Evidence-Based Interventions for School Transformation List](#)
- [Parent University / University of Family Learning](#)
  - Evidence-based program
- [Transition to Kindergarten](#)
  - Researched-based practice

### **Family Engagement Best Practices – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(b\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to 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 practices that increase the ability of districts and 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.

- In spring 2018, NDE partnered with the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium (MAEC), 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 consortium was for each state to develop, with stakeholder input, its own family engagement framework. [Nevada's Family Engagement Framework](#) aligns with the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Standards for Family-School Partnerships and the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. It also includes a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies that have proven to be effective in increasing the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children. Schools and districts can use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives and policies. The framework was released April 2021 and is currently in the process of being updated with additional evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies as a part of the Nevada's Preschool Development Grant work.
- A list of additional family engagement practices the PIFE Office has also developed and vetted can be found on NDE's [Promising Practices webpage](#).

## Statewide Training Program – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(c\)](#)

The PIFE Office is required to work in cooperation with the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs in carrying out the duties of the PIFE Office, including the establishment of a statewide training program concerning parental involvement and family engagement required pursuant to [NRS 391A.135](#).

- During fall of 2018, the PIFE Office collaborated with the Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDP) 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.
- The PIFE Office also consistently collaborates with the RPDPs in various stakeholder engagement initiatives. Representatives from the RPDPs assisted the PIFE Office in its family engagement framework development and is a consistent partner during family engagement summit planning. The RPDPs are a valued partner in helping carry out the duties of the PIFE Office.

## Grant Information Sharing – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(d\)](#)

The PIFE Office is required to provide information to districts and schools on the availability of competitive grants for programs which offer: professional development for educational personnel on practices to reengage disengaged parents and families in the education of their children; training for parents and families in skills of leadership and volunteerism; family literacy training; home visitation programs to encourage the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children; and 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 PIFE Office lists on its [Grant Information webpage](#) websites and agencies related to family engagement grants.
- Additionally, the PIFE Office has a dedicated section in its monthly family engagement newsletter that lists available family engagement related grants that districts and schools can apply to. Districts and schools, and any member of the public, can subscribe to the monthly newsletter. The monthly [newsletter subscription link](#) is listed on NDE’s [Family and Community webpage](#).
- This information is shared at every district and school training performed by the PIFE Office.

## District Advisory Council for Family Engagement Support – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(e\)](#)

The PIFE Office is required to provide support to districts which have established an advisory council on parental involvement and family engagement in agreement with [NRS 385.625](#) and encourage those school districts which have not established such an advisory council to consider creating an advisory council for the district.

- The following districts have established advisory councils or committees for parental involvement and family engagement:
  - Churchill: [Parent Involvement Committee](#) - The Parent Involvement Committee is a group of student family members and community members that meet monthly to discuss upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, organizing and planning of school functions, elementary school literacy and family nights, decorating for special events and assemblies, and creating a welcoming environment in all of our schools
  - Clark: [Parent Advisory Committees \(PAC\)](#) - Each board of trustee organizes a PAC designed specifically to encourage communication between parents and board members.
  - Douglas: [Parent Advisory Committee](#)
  - Washoe: [Superintendent's Family Action Committee](#) - Opportunity for families to work directly with the superintendent, district leadership team and staff to bring family voice to district-level decision-making.
- The PIFE Office will continue to encourage districts that have not yet established an advisory council for parental involvement and family engagement to establish a council. Interested districts are encouraged to contact the PIFE Office for any technical assistance.

### **Building Capacity of Schools to Develop Family Engagement Policies - [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(f\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to build the capacity of schools to work in collaboration with parents to establish policies for the involvement of parents and the engagement of families, including 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.

- The PIFE Office, in collaboration with the FE Council, reviews district family engagement policies on a cyclical basis. Family engagement policies are required by districts who receive Title I funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. Districts and schools may use Title I funds for family engagement programs and practices.
- The PIFE Office developed a [Title I family engagement handbook](#) to assist districts and schools in developing their family engagement policies. The handbook is consistently updated to align with best practice.

### **Educator Family Engagement Course Requirement - [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(g\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to work in cooperation with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education in developing regulations for prescribing coursework on parental involvement and family engagement ([NRS 391.019](#)) and monitoring the implementation of those regulations.

- In 2012, the PIFE Office collaborated with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to develop regulations prescribing coursework on parental involvement and family engagement.
- Since July 2015, initial licensees require at least three semester hours of coursework or professional development that is related to parental involvement and family engagement and is consistent with the elements and goals for effective involvement and engagement in [NRS 392.457](#) [[NRS 391.019](#) and [Regulation 076-19\(1\)](#)]. The coursework and professional development also must include 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 PIFE Office, in collaboration with NDE licensure staff, has an approval process in place to review coursework and professional development that is submitted by providers to ensure they meet the requirements in NRS and regulation. Coursework and professional development that is determined to satisfy the licensure requirement can be found on NDE's [webpage](#).

### **State Board Guidelines – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(h\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to 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 ([NRS 389.520](#)).

- The Nevada State Board of Education adopted a [Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy](#) on September 3, 2015. This policy was drafted with the assistance of the FE Council and support from NDE.
- The FE Council created a workgroup to work with the PIFE Office to review and possibly update the policy.

### **Statewide Family Engagement Summit – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(i\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to collaborate with the Nevada State Parent Information and Resource Center, the Parent Training and Information Centers, the Nevada Parent Teacher Association, the FE 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 PIFE Office is required to evaluate the success of the summit in consultation with the entities identified in this paragraph.

- On October 22, 2022, the PIFE Office, along with the summit planning team consisting of various required stakeholders, planned and implemented a statewide family engagement summit. The summit was a one-day, virtual event with over 250 attendees. Attendees consisted of educators, families, and community members. National and local family engagement experts provided professional development to build the capacity of attendees as it relates to family engagement.

- A report of the summit was created to evaluate the success of the summit and to capture the feedback from summit attendees. A copy of the report was presented to the FE Council and can be found [here](#).
- Planning for the 2024 statewide family engagement summit will start in fall 2023.

### **School Improvement Plans – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(i\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to assist each district and schools within the district with incorporating strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement into the plans to improve the achievement of students prepared by schools ([NRS 385A.650](#)).

- The PIFE Office participates in consistently scheduled meetings with districts regarding their federally identified underperforming schools. The PIFE Office provides technical assistance regarding family engagement best practices and programs they can incorporate in their district and school plans.
- [Nevada's Family Engagement Framework](#) includes a list of evidence-based family engagement practices and strategies that have proven to be effective in increasing the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children. The PIFE Office consistently informs districts and schools at trainings that they can use the framework to guide their family engagement initiatives, policies, and practices in their school improvement plans.

### **Reviewing and Evaluating Annual Reports – [NRS 385.635\(1\)\(k\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to work in partnership with the FE Council to: review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability prepared by the board of trustees of each school district ([NRS 385A.070](#)) relating to parental involvement and family engagement in districts and schools; review and evaluate the plans to improve the achievement of students prepared by each school ([NRS 385A.650](#)) relating to the strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement incorporated into the plans; and review the status of the implementation of the provisions of this section and the effectiveness of the PIFE Office in carrying out the duties listed in this section.

- The PIFE Office collaborates with the FE Council to review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability of each district and requests each district to present to the FE Council at least once every three years their family engagement policy, programs, and initiatives.
- The PIFE Office collaborates with the FE Council to review and evaluate the plans to improve the achievement of students prepared by each school relating to strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement incorporated into the plans. A new school performance plan and district performance plan process was rolled out for the 2022-2023 school year and 2023-2024 school year, which includes a new stakeholder engagement process that also involves engaging parents and families. The PIFE Office participated in the development of the new school improvement plans. An analysis of school and district plans will be conducted for the upcoming school year.



- Since its inception, the PIFE Office has worked closely with the FE Council to carry out and support each other's duties and responsibilities. The Council reviews the Office's annual report every year to consider the necessity for the PIFE Office and its effectiveness in carrying out its duties. In its [2023 annual report](#), the FE Council "determined the continued need of a statewide parental involvement and family engagement coordinator and the need for each public school district to have funded a parental involvement and family engagement coordinator."
- The PIFE Office's work would not be possible without the assistance of the FE Council and vice versa. The FE Council and PIFE Office also work closely to:
  - prepare the FE Council's meeting agendas and materials;
  - ensure the FE Council is informed of state and national family engagement best practices and strategies;
  - communicate family engagement best practices and strategies to districts and schools; and
  - plan and implement the biennial statewide family engagement summit.

### **Reviewing and Evaluating Annual Reports – [NRS 385.635\(3\)\(c\)](#)**

The PIFE Office is required to post on NDE's website any other information that is useful for districts, schools, parents, families, and the public relating to effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- Information and resources related to effective parental involvement and family engagement for districts, schools, parents, families, and the public can be found on NDE's [Family and Community webpage](#). It has been organized to be accessible to districts, schools, parents, families, and the public.
- Webpages have also been created, and are consistently updated, with information and resources for each specific stakeholder group.
  - [District Resources](#)
  - [Schools Resources](#)
  - [Parents and Families Resources](#)
  - [General Public Resources](#)
- A list of family engagement practices the PIFE Office has developed and vetted can be found on NDE's [Promising Practices webpage](#) as well. Additional family engagement practices developed and vetted by the PIFE, which included stakeholder input, can also be found in [Nevada's Birth through Grade 12 Family Engagement Framework](#).