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September 9, 2019

Dear Nevada District Superintendents,

The Advisory Council for Family Engagement would like to bring to your attention and highlight how a district in Nevada and a Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP) have each partnered with an institute of higher education (IHE) to provide educators the opportunity to satisfy the parental involvement and family engagement (PIFE) licensure requirement at a significantly reduced cost.

Pursuant to [NRS 391.019](#) and [NAC 391.030](#), effective July 2015, initial licensees in Nevada require at least three semester hours of credit regarding PIFE that are consistent with the elements and goals for effective involvement and engagement set forth in [NRS 392.457](#) and includes an emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families, and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse backgrounds.

Kari Pryor, Professional Learning and Family Engagement Coordinator, of the Carson City School District (CCSD) partnered with Southern Utah University (SUU) to teach a SUU PIFE course to CCSD educators that previously was approved by the Department. Nathalie Brugman, Family Engagement Facilitator, of the Southern Nevada RPDP, partnered with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), to create and teach a PIFE course that was approved by the Department for educators in the Clark County School District. Due to both IHE's agreeing to let the person they partnered with to teach the PIFE course (reducing administrative costs), there was a significant reduction of the course cost for educators. This innovative partnership with an IHE significantly reduces the financial burden for educators seeking to fulfill the PIFE licensure requirement and is a less expensive alternative than other PIFE courses offered by an IHE that are [approved by the Department](#).

Over fifty years of research confirms that family engagement in a child's education matters and leads to positive student outcomes. If effective family engagement in Nevada is to occur, there needs to be a concerted effort on developing and building the capacity of educators to engage and partner with families, which is what the true intent of the law is and one that the Council supports.

If your school district is interested in knowing more about how the CCSD and Southern Nevada RPDP partnered with an IHE, please see the contact information below. Additionally, please check in with your professional development department if this is a partnership your district is already pursuing.

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Nathalie Brugman
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer D. Hoy".

Jennifer Hoy
Council Chairman
Advisory Council for Family Engagement