

Parent Involvement & Family Engagement (PIFE)



AB224 and NDE's PIFE

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Welcome to Connecting the Dots: Nevada's Fourth Family Engagement in Education Summit!

In this newsletter, we hope to provide you with descriptions of Nevada Department of Education (NDE) programs that address Family Engagement.

One of the newer offices at NDE is the Office of Parent Involvement and Family Engagement, created under Assembly Bill 224 (AB224).

This bill created the position and prescribes its duties. These duties are numerous and are briefly listed on a side bar on Page 2.

In creating and funding the office, Nevada Legislature is acknowledging the importance of Family Engagement in student achievement and success.

There are pockets of Family Engagement throughout Nevada school districts, including: Churchill County, Clark

County, and Washoe County. In addition, districts and schools that receive Title I funds (see article below) must create an annual Parent Involvement Plan (PIP). There are different NDE offices that monitor these plans.

The challenge has been, however, that no one staff has solely addressed family engagement. Now, that has changed, so there will be a unified effort across

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Special points of interest:

- ✓ Family Engagement and NDE programs are the focus of this issue
- ✓ A brief overview of programs is provided with contact information and resources for further information

Relationships, Rules, and Results

The NDE, in conjunction with NV PEP, hosts the Relationships, Rules, and Results (RRR) Conference that is held each Fall. This conference is an excellent opportunity for parents and educators to engage in learning about special education, and to develop and foster relationships between parents and schools.

The 2012 RRR Conference will be held in Las Vegas, November 2-3.

Navigating Title I

The purpose of this federal funding is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and assessments.

- Parents and Guardians are encouraged to be part of the **District** Improvement Process.
- Parents and Guardians are encouraged to be part of their **School** Improvement Process.

- Parents and Guardians are encouraged to be part of the **District** Parent Involvement Policy review and creation process.

- Parents and Guardians are encouraged to be part of the **Title I School** Parent Involvement Policy review and creation process.

- Parents and Guardians are encouraged and should be part of the Educational Accord or Compact Review process.

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EXHIBIT I - EDUCATION Document consists of 4 pages. Entire document provided. Meeting Date 05-09-12

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the state to unify all programs, share best practices and funding, and provide a framework to create and evaluate family engagement.

In summary, the creation of the office will provide a hub for the districts and schools working with family engagement.

In October, 2011, funding was allocated, and NDE began the hiring process.

I am greatly honored to be the first Education Programs Professional for Parent Involvement and Family Engagement. I have the opportunity to work with many experts in family engagement and provide support to school districts and schools.

My first two months have been spent learning about Nevada's Family Engagement, serving on the Family Engagement in Education Summit Committee, working with the Advisory Council on Parent Involvement and Family Engagement, and researching best practices.

Before NDE, I worked at Fernley High School (FHS) as an assistant principal for two years. In addition to teacher evaluation and student discipline, I worked with 504 students, homebound students, and served as an Instructional Consultation (IC) Facilitator, initiating the IC team at FHS.

Prior to that, I worked as a high school teacher, teaching 9-12 grade English, beginning Spanish, and yearbook. I taught at Silver Stage High School for eight years; and for two years at Churchill County High School and Pyramid Lake High School. Before that, I worked as a journalist for five years.

I have an M.Ed. in Administration, an M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction, and a BA in Print Journalism.

Overview of AB 224: Parent Involvement & Family Engagement (PIFE)

*Create **PIFE Office at Nevada Department of Education** and effectively staff it*

Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Evaluate School Districts' Parent Involvement Plans & Accountability Reports with a focus on PIFE

Evaluate NDE PIFE Office activities

*Work with **State Board of Education** to create policies governing PIFE*

*Review **PIFE best practices** from each school district and create a resource base of effective practices*

*Serve on **Statewide Council for the Coordination of Regional Training Programs** to create and maintain PIFE training for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals*

*Work in conjunction with the **Commission on Professional Standards in Education** to create PIFE requirements for teacher preparation coursework*

*Create a database of competitive **PIFE grant opportunities***

*Work with other PIFE agencies to offer an **Education Summit** every two years*

*Work with **school districts that have a PIFE Advisory Council** and encourage all school districts to do so*

*Work with schools to build their capacity to **use PIFE to improve student achievement***

*Create and maintain a **website** to provide information about effective PIFE practices, annual reports, and other relevant information*

*Create an **annual report**, in conjunction with the Advisory Council on PIFE, to discuss the progress of PIFE at each school district; and to summarize accomplishments of the NDE PIFE Office*

To view AB224, go to:

<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/76th2011/Reports/history.cfm?ID=505>

National Center for Homeless Education

As our economy has declined over the last few years, the impact on families has been daunting. When students have to worry about if they are going to have anything to eat or any place to live, they cannot focus on school. Such challenges have made outreach services for these students and their families even more important.

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHHE) website has a series of resources that are helpful for educators and families. Please check out the available resources: http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/parent_inv.php

Migrant Students and Title III

Migrant children often enroll in multiple schools and school districts for varying amounts of time each year as their families migrate in search of temporary or seasonal employment in agriculture or fishing. The timely transfer of migrant children's education and health records between these schools has been a challenge. The U.S Department of Education (USDOE) is assisting states in developing effective methods for electronic transfer of student records and in determining the number of migrant children in each state. The Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) was completed in Sep-

tember 2007. MSIX is a national database but it does not replace existing state migrant student record systems. More importantly, according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), MSIX minimizes the amount of personal information collected to include only those data elements required to match student records. Only authorized educational personnel have access to this information. It is important for the parents to inform authorized personnel when they move from or move into a new district/state for seasonal work related to agricultural fields.

See TITLE III on Page 4

GEAR UP

GEAR UP is a program that helps students prepare for and transition to college.

"Every parent should be informed and involved in accessing the best education possible for their child," noted Charlotte Curtis, Nevada State GEAR UP Coordinator. "They should also know about options for careers and postsecondary opportunities for their student. Nevada affords many possibilities to pursue the very best for your child."

GEAR UP:
<http://www.doe.nv.gov/GearUp.html>

http://nde.doe.nv.gov/PDFs/IndianEducation/REL_ExaminingAmericanIndian_Perspectivesparent%20involvement.pdf

Indian Education

Education involvement can be a challenge for American Indian families due to their historical negative experiences with the federal government's policies on American Indian education, according to Dawn Mackety and Jennifer A. Linder-VanBerschot in their 2008 Regional Laboratory article on American Indian perspectives on parent involvement in education. While exclusion of families from their children's education used to be the norm, that is now changing. Native culture, traditions, and language are being included in schools. To read the article, go to the address listed to the left, in the bottom box.

NV PreK Cuts Achievement Gaps: Early Childhood Education Facts & Resources

Nevada State PreK (Early Childhood Education or ECE) currently serves a little over 1300 children, or 1.6% of our population within 10 school districts. A recent article reported that Nevada slipped to 34th (out of 39) in PreK enrollment due to being "flat funded" at \$3.3 million for the past several years, with minimal increases since program inception in 2001.

"Nevada has largely stalled in its commitment to PreK in recent years," said Steve Barnett, cofounder of the

National Institute for Early Education Research.

Despite the funding limitations, data shows that children who attended the Nevada ECE program in 2005-06 have achieved more than expected from school entry to fourth grade. These students are now at average, having eliminated the achievement gap that existed prior to the program.

This data supports national research that indicates that high quality PreK programs lead to higher school

achievement, decreased costs related to special education and retention, higher adult earnings, and, decreased crime involvement.

For further information:
http://nde.doe.nv.gov/SI_Resources_ECE.htm
www.challengingbehaviors.org
www.NevadaECAC.com
aseverens@doe.nv.gov

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The Nevada State Board of Education recognizes that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement. The term parent refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc. Studies demonstrate that when parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents are vital and necessary partners with the educational communities throughout their children's school career. Although parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, universally all parents want what is best for their children. School districts and schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students and administrators, must establish and develop efforts that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families in the communities which they serve.

—Nevada State Board of Education's Parent Involvement Policy, 2001

*Quality education for
every Nevada student*

NDE Quick Reference Contacts

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Title III is a program to help students acquire English as a Second Language for academic success. The purpose is to support English Language Learners (ELLs) having access to grade level content instruction while helping them to develop academic English. Parental involvement is key to this process! We encourage parents and educators serving ELL students to communicate often regarding the child's academic progress. We ask educators to facilitate and encourage parents to read with their children in the parents' dominant language.

