

From: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:56:00 PM
Attachments: [National Parents and Families Engagement Council \(4\).pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Sorry, I forgot the attachment.

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:52 PM
Subject: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

As you know, the Secretary strongly believes that parents are core partners in the education of our children and has often said that parents are their children's first – and most important – teachers. As a parent and educator himself, the Secretary has seen the incredible value in the partnership between parents and families, educators, district leaders, and entire school communities to support student success.

Now more than ever, schools and districts must work closely with parents and families if we want to be successful in our efforts to keep our schools open safely and address the impacts COVID-19 has had on our Nation's students. To this end, the Secretary and staff at the Department have been working to build strong relationships at the national and local levels and your organization is key to the success of these efforts. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the deep relationships and connections needed between parents, families, schools and the school community.

To further these relationships, the Department hopes to facilitate key engagements with parents, families, teachers, and school staff critical for tackling learning loss and reimagining education. I am sharing with you today a draft outline for the development of a National Parents and Families Engagement Council as an opportunity for the Department to listen, learn and engage families. The Council would help to ensure parents' voices play a critical role in how their children are recovering from the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally.

We would appreciate your written or verbal feedback or questions on any of the following (but not limited to) by **Thursday, March 24th**:

- Timing for the launch
- Membership and structure of the Council
- Mission and purpose of the Council
- The role of national and local Council members
- Issues the Council should consider

We would also like to know if your organization is interested in providing a member to the Council (all organizations interested will be vetted prior to joining the Council). If interested in participating in the Council, please provide us with 5-10 cities/regions/locales where you have strong membership that could be engaged initially as we launch the Council.

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- Toolkit for local chapters to host conversations
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How You Can Get Involved:

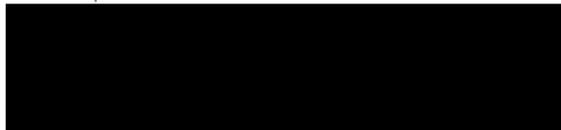
Have your organization join the National Parents and Families Engagement Council and help schools and families work together to help students recover from the pandemic and thrive! Note: participants and organizations will be vetted prior to joining the Council.

Please keep this document as **close hold** and **do not share** it or its contents outside of your organization. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you,
Kim

Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education



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From: [REDACTED]
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NAFSCE Suggestions for National Parents and Families Engagement Council
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2022 4:54:30 PM
Attachments: [National Parents and Families Engagement Council - NAFSCE Suggestions 3 24 22.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Kim!

Thanks again for your work to establish this council. We are really pleased to see this progress within the Department. Attached, please see our suggestions and let me know how we can be of additional assistance to you and the team at the Department. We appreciate our collaboration in advancing family engagement as a strategy to student achievement, school improvement and equity.

Best,

[REDACTED]

Executive Director
 National Assn. for Family, School and Community Engagement
 cell: (b)(6)
 email: [REDACTED]@nafsce.org
 website: [REDACTED]nafsce.org



DEFENDING EDUCATION



Recommendations Regarding the National Parents and Families Engagement Council

March 24, 2022

The following response is submitted on behalf of the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) pursuant to its request for guidance on the creation of the National Parents and Families Engagement Council (the Council). Family-school-community partnerships are powerful strategies for strengthening equity, child development, student achievement, and school improvement.

- **Make the role of the Council more explicit, including its role with the Department:** The relationship between the Council and the Department can provide mutual support. The Council can provide diverse perspectives on Department initiatives and make recommendations to the Department, in addition to establishing feedback loops with families. The Department can provide a platform for sharing Council resources and recommendations with schools, districts, and families. The Department can also explore ways it can address concerns raised by the Council.
 - Considerations:
 - How will the Council inform Department initiatives?
 - How will a national council of parents influence local family and community engagement?
 - What is the theory of change of the Council?
 - What are the expectations with respect to the national organizations that members are representing?
 - How can that be articulated in the description and role of the Council?
 - Assure parent representatives understand their role, responsibilities and benefits from participating in the council
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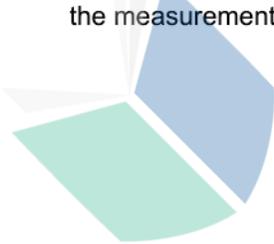
- **Clearly articulate a dual-capacity strategy for the Council that addresses not only families, but also schools and districts:** Just as the Dual-Capacity framework communicates, both in the version [initially released by the Department](#) and in the [updated version](#), in order for effective family and school partnerships to occur, essential conditions must be in place. The Council currently sounds like it is only a family-to-family initiative. The Council can also work with the Department to provide support, guidance, and resources to schools and districts around engaging families to constructively participate in their children's education.

- **Clearly articulate how the Council membership will provide diverse, representative voices of families:** The Department can specify that the Council will be composed of diverse members that will represent geographic and demographic diversity.
 - Considerations:
 - To broaden diversity, consider an open call for participants that creates an opportunity that is not limited to only those organizations that were identified by the Department, perhaps to fill 25% of the Council's seats as "members at large". An application should specify selection criteria or considerations, identify clear roles and identify commitments from organizations and representatives.
 - Consider diversity of gender (including fatherhood), race/ethnicity, linguistic and

immigrant background, political diversity, suburban/urban/rural, military families, foster families, kinship/grandfamilies, and families with disabilities.

- **Resources and materials created should provide transparency on the responsibilities and rights of parents as it pertains to FSCE**
 - Considerations:
 - The toolkits created must not only offer suggestions and opportunities for what parents can do to increase their engagement and what their responsibilities are but also what educational opportunities are available to them, what they can expect from their schools, and what their rights are as parents.
 - The toolkits should share data and information that is user-friendly for parents on the consequences of the pandemic in order to understand the importance of their engagement.
 - The toolkits should also empower them to participate in their students' education and emphasize families as key assets in students not only recovering but thriving from the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally.
 - There should be a genuine tone of opportunity for parents to see that they are perceived as irreplaceable and valuable in the overall development and growth of their children, schools and communities

- **Transparent goals and outcomes of what the Council will achieve as it pertains to FSCE at the local level**
 - Considerations:
 - Develop tangible resources and supports for the parent representatives to have the capacity, experience and knowledge to engage other parents who may be less involved in the process
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NAFSCE • [REDACTED] Alexandria, VA • 22314

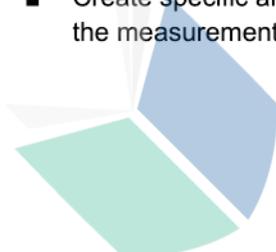
PHONE: [REDACTED] WWW.NAFSCE.org

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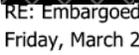
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 [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
To: 
Cc: 
Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 10:20:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)


 Thank you so much for responding. We truly value our relationship NMFA and look forward to continuing that relationship through the Council. We will be in touch shortly with next steps.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

From: @militaryfamily.org>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 7:23 AM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <@ed.gov>
Cc: @militaryfamily.org>
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.


 We're grateful for the Department's commitment to fostering productive dialogue with parents and advocates. This new engagement council will be vital to involving important stakeholders, like military parents, in the development of resources and innovative solutions to improve student outcomes. Eighty percent of military-connected students attend public schools. Military parents should have a voice on the Council because of the different needs of this highly mobile population and the unique challenges that military-connected students face in school compared to their civilian peers.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) would like to provide a military parent member to join the Council. NMFA represents all military families with many residing in these six areas: Hawaii; Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA; San Diego, CA; San Antonio, TX; Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA; and the National Capital Region.

NMFA recommends providing resources to schools to educate teachers and administrators about the unique military student experience, including developing school and student-led programs to support this population. NMFA also recommends regular training for school teachers/administrators/staff about the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Nonprofit military service organizations like NMFA will continue to empower military parents with the knowledge and tools to better advocate for their military child while building collaborative relationships with schools.

NMFA looks forward to continuing this valuable work with the Department.

Kind Regards,

██████████ (she/her/hers)
Government Relations Deputy Director

National Military Family Association

██████████
www.MilitaryFamily.org
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Blog](#) | [Donate](#)

Together we're stronger®

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Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:56 PM
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Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education

4 [REDACTED] 20202

2 [REDACTED] 197

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From: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 10:44:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
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No problem at all [REDACTED], I appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback. I'll be in touch shortly with next steps around the Council.

Thank you and have a great weekend.

From: [REDACTED]@girlsinc.org>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

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Hi Kimberly,

With apologies for missing yesterday's deadline, here are my thoughts:

- Mission and purpose of the Council. We are supportive of the expressed mission and purpose of the Council and would like to be one of the founding members.
- The role of national and local Council members. We would advise each organization having more than one representative to the Council. If you want real, representative parents to participate, they need to be working in a team to allow balancing with their existing responsibilities. There needs to be back-up for the significant responsibility of liaising between you and their organization's parent body and leadership.
- Issues the Council should consider. 1. School pushout/disciplinary equity, 2. Mental health staff and services in schools, 3. Police in schools, 4. Access for girls and other underrepresented groups to meaningful opportunities to pursue all career paths, including STEM, 5. School collaboration with out-of-school learning and mentoring opportunities.
- Locations for initial meetings. We have 77 affiliates, most or all of which could be engaged in visits. About how many parent attendees are you looking for? My initial thoughts are to Omaha, Boston, and Santa Fe, but there are many more we could suggest with more understanding of your plans.

Thank you for the opportunity.

[REDACTED]

(I've sent this at a time that's convenient for me; please feel free to respond at a time that's convenient for you.)

[REDACTED] Director of Public Policy
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers ([what's this?](#))

girlsinc.org
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



If you missed our **2022 Girls Inc. Virtual New York Luncheon—Celebrating Women of Achievement, hosted by Gayle King**, you can now watch it [here](#)!

On Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 3:51 PM Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]>@ed.gov> wrote:

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Thanks [REDACTED]. I'll follow up with additional details soon.

From: [REDACTED]@unidosus.org>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:15 PM
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Hi Kimberly, I am sorry, I forgot to get back with you on this. No, I don't have any questions for now, but I would love to be a part of this Council as a representative of UnidosUS.

[REDACTED] | Director, Parent and Community Engagement | Education
[REDACTED] | m [REDACTED] (b)(6) [REDACTED]@unidosus.org
NCLR is now UnidosUS. Find out more [REDACTED]

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 11:12 AM
To: J [REDACTED]@unidosus.org>
Subject: FW: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

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Hi [REDACTED]

Just checking in on this and seeing if Unidos has any feedback or desire to join the Council.

Thanks,
Kim

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:52 PM
Subject: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

As you know, the Secretary strongly believes that parents are core partners in the education of our children and has often said that parents are their children's first – and most important – teachers.

As a parent and educator himself, the Secretary has seen the incredible value in the partnership between parents and families, educators, district leaders, and entire school communities to support student success.

Now more than ever, schools and districts must work closely with parents and families if we want to be successful in our efforts to keep our schools open safely and address the impacts COVID-19 has had on our Nation's students. To this end, the Secretary and staff at the Department have been working to build strong relationships at the national and local levels and your organization is key to the success of these efforts. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the deep relationships and connections needed between parents, families, schools and the school community.

To further these relationships, the Department hopes to facilitate key engagements with parents, families, teachers, and school staff critical for tackling learning loss and reimagining education. I am sharing with you today a draft outline for the development of a National Parents and Families Engagement Council as an opportunity for the Department to listen, learn and engage families. The Council would help to ensure parents' voices play a critical role in how their children are recovering from the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally.

We would appreciate your written or verbal feedback or questions on any of the following (but not limited to) by **Thursday, March 24th**:

- Timing for the launch
- Membership and structure of the Council
- Mission and purpose of the Council
- The role of national and local Council members
- Issues the Council should consider

We would also like to know if your organization is interested in providing a member to the Council (all organizations interested will be vetted prior to joining the Council). If interested in participating in the Council, please provide us with 5-10 cities/regions/locales where you have strong membership that could be engaged initially as we launch the Council.

Please keep this document as **close hold** and **do not share** it or its contents outside of your organization. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you,
Kim

Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach

U.S. Department of Education



From: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Walker, Serena](#)
Subject: RE: FW: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:32:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Laura,

Thanks so much. We would love to get your thoughts on the composition of the council and their role, etc. I'll look forward to hearing from you Monday.

Have a great weekend.

From: [REDACTED]@stridepolicy.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

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Yes, I am so sorry I missed this. We want to be directly involved and would like to be considered for the Council membership. My counterpart [REDACTED] (COPAA state policy director), a parent from New Orleans, who has 2 sons with autism attending public school, is our nominee. We also have strong membership in CA, CT, LA, MA, MI, NY, TX. I can provide more information if helpful.

I have some thoughts on the composition of the council and their role etc. If you want me to get that pulled together by Monday I can do so.

Thank you for reaching back out. Let me know on next steps. All best,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Mar 25, 2022 at 12:11 PM [REDACTED] Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]a,

Just checking in on this and seeing if COPAA has any feedback or desire to join the Council.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:52 PM
Subject: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Friends,

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As you know, the Secretary strongly believes that parents are core partners in the education of our children and has often said that parents are their children's first – and most important – teachers. As a parent and educator himself, the Secretary has seen the incredible value in the partnership between parents and families, educators, district leaders, and entire school communities to support student success.

Now more than ever, schools and districts must work closely with parents and families if we want to be successful in our efforts to keep our schools open safely and address the impacts COVID-19 has had on our Nation's students. To this end, the Secretary and staff at the Department have been working to build strong relationships at the national and local levels and your organization is key to the success of these efforts. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the deep relationships and connections needed between parents, families, schools and the school community.

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Thank you,
Kim

Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education



www.ed.gov



From: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 2:14:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

These are great questions and feedback [REDACTED]. I will send this up the chain and we'll be back in touch with folks relatively quickly as we're hoping to launch this some time next month.

Have a great weekend!

From: [REDACTED]@pta.org>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 1:37 PM

Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

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Thanks [REDACTED] and Kim! Kim, we appreciate you inviting us to comment on this. Of course, PTA would be honored to participate. The main thing we would need to know in identifying folks or locations – and my main feedback on the draft you shared – is a little more clarity around participation expectations – meeting frequency, if they will have homework or activities (like convening other parents) outside of meetings, etc. The other area you could add some more detail around is accessibility – whether you will provide stipends (esp if asking parents to convene other parents), translation/interpretation support, ADA accessible meetings, etc. Our family and community leaders are often juggling multiple responsibilities so we try to be up front with them about what we are asking and providing to help them participate fully!

Thank you again for the invitation to weigh-in!

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (she/her)
 Director of Family Engagement

National PTA®

(b)(6) (direct)

pta.org



From: [REDACTED]@pta.org>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 1:01 PM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@pta.org>
Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Hi Kim! So appreciate you checking in with us on this. YES please count us in. Looping in Helen who leads our Center for Family Engagement who I know was taking a look at this request earlier this week but apologies for the delay!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MSW | Director of Government Affairs
National Parent Teacher Association



From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 12:10 PM
To: K [REDACTED]@pta.org>
Subject: FW: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Hi [REDACTED]

Just checking in to see if you received this and if PTA has any feedback or desire to join the Council.

Thanks,

Kim

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:52 PM

Subject: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

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Thank you,
Kim

Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education



From: ██████████ Legislation
To: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
Cc: ██████████
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 3:18:11 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks so much for your patience, Kimberly. Here are the locations we would recommend:

1. Miami-Dade
2. Chicago
3. Boston
4. Duluth
5. Deer River, MN
6. El Paso
7. Cincinnati
8. Messena
9. Detroit

We'd also like to recommend that these parent groups be included in your conversations:

- Red Wine and Blue
- United Parent Leaders Action Network
- Integrated Schools
- Parents Together
- Journey for Justice
- IL Raise Your Hand

Thank you and have a good weekend!

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <██████████@ed.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 10:26 AM
To: ██████████@aft.org>
Subject: RE: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Thanks Beth. I'll look forward to receiving the locations.

From: ██████████ legislation <██████████@aft.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 8:57 PM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <██████████@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

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Hi Kimberly,

Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to review the document. The AFT would absolutely like to participate in the Council. We will provide you our 5-10 location recommendations very shortly.

[REDACTED]
American Federation of Teachers

(b)(6)

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:52 PM

Subject: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Friends,

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As you know, the Secretary strongly believes that parents are core partners in the education of our children and has often said that parents are their children's first – and most important – teachers. As a parent and educator himself, the Secretary has seen the incredible value in the partnership between parents and families, educators, district leaders, and entire school communities to support student success.

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Thank you,
Kim



Kimberly Watkins-Foote
Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education



This email has been scanned for spam & viruses. If you believe this email should have been stopped by our filters, [click here](#) to report it.



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Friday, March 25, 2022 5:44:46 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[UPLAN Member Groups rev 2022.xlsx](#)
[UPLAN Memo Department of Ed Parent Council March 2022.pdf](#)
[Proposal for a Parent and Family Advisory Council to USED.pdf](#)

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Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your flexibility on the timeline of submitting these comments and questions. I have attached:

- A memo from the UPLAN parent Governing Council with questions and comments on the Department's plan for a National Parents and Families Engagement Council.
- UPLAN's 2021 proposal for a Parent and Family Advisory Council to the Department. The Governing Council thought this document, submitted to Dr. Aaliyah Samuel in July 2021, could be helpful context for some of our comments in the memo.
- A list of UPLAN's member organizations, including their locations. This is in response to your request to list 5-10 cities/locales where UPLAN has significant representation. The Governing Council did not feel we could go through a process to determine which locations have significant representation in the timeline requested. We would be happy to talk more about how UPLAN can best partner with the Department in determining which UPLAN member organizations would be the best fit to connect a parent to the Council.

Once again, in response to your question about whether UPLAN would like to connect a parent to the Council, our answer is a resounding yes!

Thank you again for your invitation to submit these comments! We look forward to hearing more about next steps.

[REDACTED]

Certainly, and thank you so much for taking the time. We truly value the relationship and parent voice we receive from UPLAN.

From: [REDACTED]@unitedparentleaders.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 3:58 PM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

UPLAN Member Organization

Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors
 Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network
 Central Valley Children's Services Network – Parent Voices Fresno
 Children's Council – Parent Voices San Francisco
 Choice For All
 Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth
 Collaborative Parent Leadership Action Network (CPLAN)
 Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)
 Crystal Stairs, Inc. – Community Voices
 Fathers, Families, and Healthy Communities
 Hustle Mommies
 Kansas City Parent Leadership Training Institute (KC-PLTI)
 Maine Parent Ambassadors
 Mama Be Brilliant
 Mississippi Low-Income Childcare Initiative (MLICCI)
 National Parent Leadership Institute (NPLI)
 New York City Coalition for Educating Families Together (NYC CEFT)
 Ohio Head Start Association – Parent Ambassadors
 One Pennsylvania
 OneAmerica
 Organizers in the Land of Enchantment (OLÉ)
 Parent Engagement Academy (PEA)
 Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)
 Parent Leaders Uniting Schools (PLUS)
 Parent Voices California
 Parent Voices CocoKids (Contra Costa Chapter)
 Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)
 Parents for Healthy Homes (PFHH)
 Parents United – Galveston
 Parents United for Change
 Partnership for Community Action (PCA)
 Somali Parents Education Board (SPEB)
 Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP Parent Ambassadors (WSA)
 White Center Parent Ambassadors
 Witnesses to Hunger

Location

National
 Oakland, CA
 Fresno, CA
 San Francisco, CA
 Long Island, NY
 San Francisco, CA
 Boston, MA
 IL - Statewide
 Los Angeles, CA
 Chicago, IL
 National
 Kansas City, MO
 Waterville, ME
 National
 MS – Statewide
 National
 New York, NY
 OH – Statewide
 PA – Statewide
 WA - Statewide
 NM - Statewide
 CA – Statewide & National
 CA – Statewide & National
 Skokie, IL
 CA – Statewide
 Antioch, CA
 Washington, D.C.
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Galveston, TX
 East St. Louis, IL
 Albuquerque, NM
 Seattle, WA
 WA – Statewide
 Seattle, WA
 PA – Statewide

Website

www.ap-od.org
 www.parentactionnet.org
 www.parentvoices.org
 www.parentvoices.org
 www.choiceforall.org
 www.colemanadvocates.org
 www.cplanma.org
 www.cofonline.org
 www.crystalstairs.org
 www.ffhc.org
 https://unitedparentleaders.org/clients-view/hustle-mommies/
 https://www.pltiki.org/
 https://www.schoolandcollegelists.com/US/Waterville/750615851739814/Maine-State-Parent-Ambassadors
 www.mamabebrilliant.com
 www.mschildcare.org
 www.parentswholead.org
 https://mobile.twitter.com/nycceft
 www.ohsai.org/ohsai-parent-ambassador-program
 www.onepa.org
 www.wearoneamerica.org
 www.olenm.org
 www.academyforparents.org
 www.piqe.org
 www.parentvoices.org
 www.parentvoices.org
 www.dcpave.org
 www.healthyhomescoalition.org/PFHH
 www.cofonline.org
 www.forcommunityaction.org
 www.speboard.org
 www.wsaheadstarteap.com
 www.wccda.org
 www.centerforhungerfreecommunities.org/our-projects/witnesses-hunger.org



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UNITED PARENT LEADERS ACTION NETWORK

To: Kimberly Watkins-Foote; U.S. Department of Education; Director; National Engagement Division; Office of Communications and Outreach
From: The Governing Council of the United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
Date: March 25, 2022
Subject: National Parents and Families Engagement Council

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft plans for a National Parents and Families Engagement Council (“the Council”) to the U.S. Department of Education (“USED”). We are excited that USED will engage in dialogue with families about the critical issues facing our schools and communities. UPLAN has developed a proposal for a Parent And Family Advisory Council to USED, dating back to 2017, but recently updated in 2021 (attached). We see this recent plan from USED for the Council as an important step toward that vision for true partnership between families and educators at all levels of decision making from federal to local.

We have reviewed the proposal and have some questions:

- What are the USED’s expectations of parents who participate in the Council? What capacities do they need to bring to the table?
- What resources will be available to support this work? We are curious about available resources to support the activities happening at the national level (i.e. the time, travel, and expertise of the parents engaging at the Council meetings). We are also curious about resources to support the activities happening at the local level (i.e. Council members convening and engaging parents in their cities/communities).

In addition to these questions, we have some recommendations:

- The partnership between parents and USED must be a two-way street. Not only should the Council members bring information, tools, and calls to action from USED to local communities, but the Council should also bring knowledge and feedback from local communities to impact the Department’s vision, programs, and decisions.
- Across UPLAN, there are local organizations supporting parents to convene and lead conversations on education issues. For example, during the 2020-21 school year, [Parent Institute for Quality Education \(PIQE\)](#) held family programs focused on education issues in partnership with 233 schools across California. [Collaborative Parent Leadership Action Network \(CPLAN\)](#) in Massachusetts hosts workshops that bring families and educators together to discuss equity, diversity, and inclusion in education. These are just a few of the many bright spots across the country where families are leading efforts to engage and activate parents on the education issues that matter. The local activities implemented by members of this Council should build on existing work to convene and facilitate information sharing, training, dialogue, and collective action among families and avoid creating repetitive structures or “reinventing the wheel.”

- We believe it's critical for the Council's membership to be diverse, representative of the many experiences of families in education systems, and ensure space for families that are not often at education decision making tables (including Black and Brown parents, immigrants, families whose primary language is not English etc.). The Council should include families from a variety of education settings such as rural schools, elementary and secondary schools, Head Start programs, school District or state run pre-K programs, special education programs, dual language programs, migrant education programs, Indian education programs, Title I schools, faith based, private, and charter schools.
- Given the complexity of ensuring broad representation and identifying parents with the right leadership skills and supports, we recommend that USED convene an implementation committee of stakeholders to give input on the Council's membership and structure. This committee would give input on written materials describing the capacities and qualifications needed, an opportunity for organizations and parents to nominate or apply, and a process for vetting applicants/nominees.
- We think UPLAN uniquely brings together diverse parents with strong leadership capacities backed by local organizations, and therefore should be considered to nominate more than one parent to the Council.

Thank you again for inviting our feedback on this plan to elevate family voice at USED and across the country. We look forward to partnering with you in the months and years ahead to bring the voices of a key stakeholder group to our shared goal of supporting all students to succeed!



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UNITED PARENT LEADERS ACTION NETWORK

UPLAN Proposal for a Parent and Family Advisory Council to the U.S. Department of Education

July 2021

Proposal:

The United States Department of Education (USED) creates both an Office of Family and Community Engagement and a separate Parent and Family Advisory Council to the Secretary of USED in order to bring the perspectives and expertise of a key stakeholder group to policy development across the agency, leading to improved educational outcomes for all students.

Background:

The United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN) is a non-partisan network of parent leaders from across the country who are passionate about children and improving the systems that affect families. Our membership includes 33 parent leadership organizations encompassing over 700,000 individual parents (see our membership list [here](#)). UPLAN members have led efforts at the state and local levels to increase opportunity and support the well-being of children, including advancing family engagement programming, promoting community schools, improving and expanding early education opportunities, and creating and training parent advisory groups. UPLAN parents have been keynote speakers at national convenings, presenters on webinars, and facilitators of workshops at conferences. We are eager to connect the experience and expertise of the parents from our network to USED's policy work and believe that a new Parent and Family Advisory Council is needed to create meaningful dialogue.

UPLAN also works with the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) and is supportive of their proposal for an Office of Family and Community Engagement in USED. UPLAN's hope is that the Parent and Family Advisory Council and a new Office of Family and Community Engagement can both emerge as complementary components of an overall USED-wide strategy for partnering with parents to improve outcomes for all students.

Parent and Family Advisory Council Mission:

Outcomes for all students improve when families are part of the creation, implementation, and evaluation of education policy. The Parent and Family Advisory Council will connect the real-life perspectives of a diverse, representative group of parents to US ED's policies and programs to inform design and implementation efforts. Research has shown that when schools engage families as leaders, educational outcomes in the areas of academics, school climate, cultural competence, and health and safety improve. US ED would model that evidence-based practice of family leadership by creating a Parent and Family Advisory Council, and advance the Secretary's strategic priority to strengthen parent voice in the educational process.

Purview and Scope:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has legislated that stakeholders, including families, must be engaged in the development of policy. The Parent and Family Advisory Council will mirror those requirements at the federal level. It will make recommendations, engage in dialogue, and provide feedback on USED's programs. Families have expertise and experience with many aspects of the education system. Therefore, the Council will advise on the full array of policies and programs under USED's jurisdiction and will provide specific recommendations regarding proposed legislation, program guidance and implementation, grants and funding opportunities, and budgets.

Implementation:

The Parent and Family Advisory Council will be a standing, ongoing body comprised of 21 parents who represent a diversity of perspectives and experiences. Parents will apply to serve two-year terms, with a maximum of two terms totaling four years of service maximum per person. A transition in administration will not impact the terms of parent representatives. The council will convene in-person at least 4 times per year.

Selection will be based on diverse representation of parents with a "stake" in the many areas of policy and programming under USED's jurisdiction. At a minimum, the council will include representation of parents from each of the following stakeholder groups:

- Rural schools
- Elementary schools
- Secondary schools
- Head Start programs
- School District or state run pre-K programs
- Special education programs
- Dual Language Learners (DLL) and/or immigrant families
- Migrant education programs
- Indian education programs
- Title I Schools
- Faith based / private schools / charter schools
- Families experiencing homelessness

Selection for the council will also be based on experience with and passion for engaging with schools demonstrated through an application. The application form and a rubric outlining the characteristics sought and the way applications are scored will be developed by USED with input from existing experts in the field of family engagement, including parents and families, and shared publicly. Criteria related to diverse representation (including geography, race, ethnicity, and gender) that are not reflected in the stakeholder categories above can be integrated into the selection rubric. Applications will gather essential personal and demographic information, but will not be used to capture sensitive personal information such as Social Security Number, family income, immigration, or marital status. A core component of the success of the Council will be joint training with USED staff to understand authentic parent leadership and engagement.

Before the launch of the council, an implementation committee will further develop a plan for its governance (in alignment with the Federal Advisory Committee Act), budget, and internal structure.

Conclusion:

Parents across the country are committed to working with policy makers to improve outcomes for our nation's children. A Parent and Family Advisory Council to the U.S. Department of Education will invigorate family engagement in schools across the country by integrating the evidence-based practices of family-school partnerships into policy and programming at the federal level.



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Hi Kim,

I discussed the document with some parents from UPLAN's leadership team. First and foremost, UPLAN is interested in connecting a parent (or parents) to the Council!

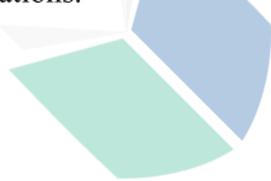
We also have some reflections and questions to share about the document describing the Council, and we will share them in writing rather than requesting a meeting with Precious. Can we have until Friday EOD to submit this?

Thanks, and more to come soon!



Hi [redacted],

Thanks for responding so quickly. Your folks should send Precious an email to set up a time to have a conversation. Hopefully we'll be able to accommodate a couple conversations.



On Mar 20, 2022, at 3:00 PM, Erin Moore <[redacted]@unitedparentleaders.org> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kim,

Thank you for this information and invitation to engage with the Department in developing the mission and structure of the Council. I will share this with some parents from UPLAN's leadership so we can provide feedback and questions on the design. If the parents would like to engage verbally, what is the best way to coordinate that?

Thanks again!

On Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 2:56 PM Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
<[REDACTED]@ed.gov> wrote:

Sorry, I forgot the attachment.

From: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:52 PM
Subject: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Friends,

I hope this message finds you well.

As you know, the Secretary strongly believes that parents are core partners in the education of our children and has often said that parents are their children's first – and most important – teachers. As a parent and educator himself, the Secretary has seen the incredible value in the partnership between parents and families, educators, district leaders, and entire school communities to support student success.

Now more than ever, schools and districts must work closely with parents and families if we want to be successful in our efforts to keep our schools open safely and address the impacts COVID-19 has had on our Nation's students. To this end, the Secretary and staff at the Department have been working to build strong relationships at the

national and local levels and your organization is key to the success of these efforts. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the deep relationships and connections needed between parents, families, schools and the school community.

To further these relationships, the Department hopes to facilitate key engagements with parents, families, teachers, and school staff critical for tackling learning loss and reimagining education. I am sharing with you today a draft outline for the development of a National Parents and Families Engagement Council as an opportunity for the Department to listen, learn and engage families. The Council would help to ensure parents' voices play a critical role in how their children are recovering from the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally.

We would appreciate your written or verbal feedback or questions on any of the following (but not limited to) by **Thursday, March 24th**:

- Timing for the launch
- Membership and structure of the Council
- Mission and purpose of the Council
- The role of national and local Council members
- Issues the Council should consider

We would also like to know if your organization is interested in providing a member to the Council (all organizations interested will be vetted prior to joining the Council). If interested in participating in the Council, please provide us with 5-10 cities/regions/locales where you have strong membership that could be engaged initially as we launch the Council.

Please keep this document as **close hold** and **do not share** it or its contents outside of your organization. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you,

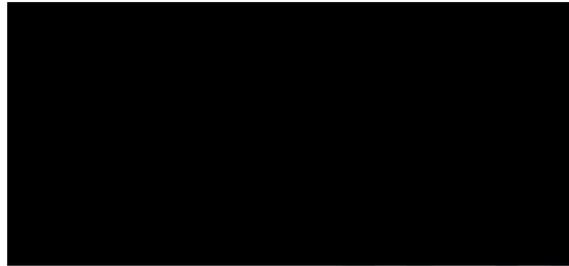
Kim



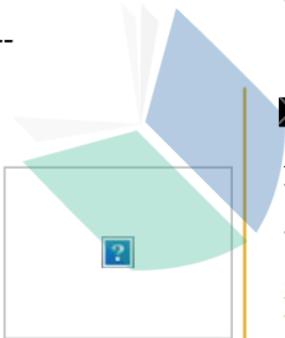
Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division

Office of Communications and Outreach



DEFENDING EDUCATION



[Redacted] re

National Director

United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)

M: (b)(6)

W: unitedparentleaders.org

[Redacted] [@unitedparentleaders.org](mailto:[Redacted]@unitedparentleaders.org)



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National Director

United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)

M: (b)(6)

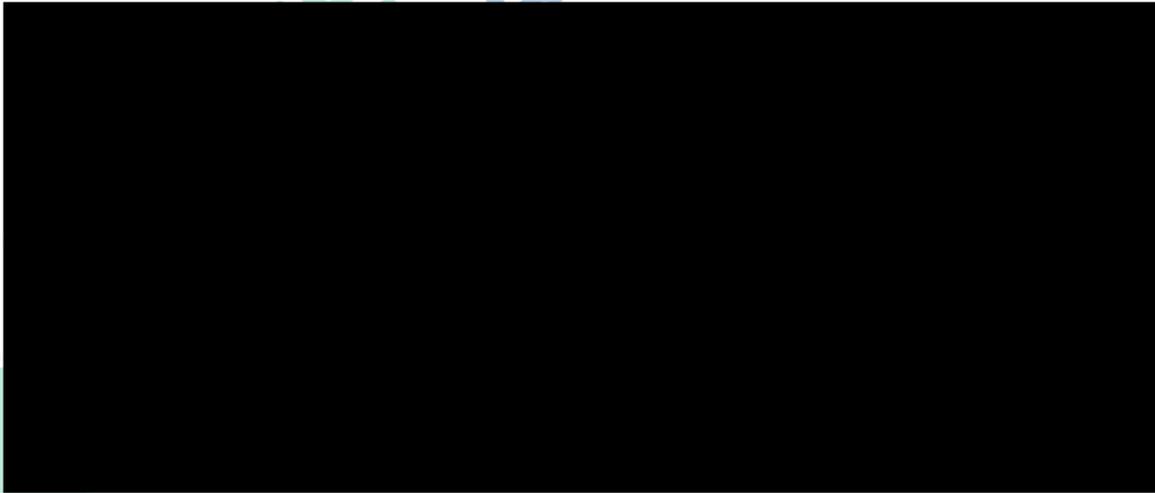
W: unitedparentleaders.org

 [@unitedparentleaders.org](mailto:unitedparentleaders.org)



ENDING
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UPLAN Member Organization

UPLAN Member Organization	Location	Website
Abriendo Puertas / Opening Doors	National	www.ap-od.org
Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network	Oakland, CA	www.parentactionnet.org
Central Valley Children's Services Network – Parent Voices Fresno	Fresno, CA	www.parentvoices.org
Children's Council – Parent Voices San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	www.parentvoices.org
Choice For All	Long Island, NY	www.choiceforall.org
Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth	San Francisco, CA	www.colemanadvocates.org
Collaborative Parent Leadership Action Network (CPLAN)	Boston, MA	www.cplanma.org
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)	IL - Statewide	www.cofionline.org
Crystal Stairs, Inc. – Community Voices	Los Angeles, CA	www.crystalstairs.org
Fathers, Families, and Healthy Communities	Chicago, IL	www.ffhc.org
Hustle Mommies	National	https://unitedparentleaders.org/clients-view/hustle-mommies/
Kansas City Parent Leadership Training Institute (KC-PLTI)	Kansas City, MO	https://www.pltikc.org/
Maine Parent Ambassadors	Waterville, ME	https://www.schoolandcollegelists.com/US/Waterville/750615851739814/Maine-State-Parent-Ambassadors
Mama Be Brilliant	National	www.mamabebrilliant.com
Mississippi Low-Income Childcare Initiative (MLICCI)	MS – Statewide	www.mschildcare.org
National Parent Leadership Institute (NPLI)	National	www.parentswholead.org
New York City Coalition for Educating Families Together (NYC CEFT)	New York, NY	https://mobile.twitter.com/nycceft
Ohio Head Start Association – Parent Ambassadors	OH – Statewide	www.ohsai.org/ohsai-parent-ambassador-program
One Pennsylvania	PA – Statewide	www.onepa.org
OneAmerica	WA - Statewide	www.weareoneamerica.org
Organizers in the Land of Enchantment (OÉ)	NM - Statewide	www olenm.org
Parent Engagement Academy (PEA)	CA – Statewide & National	www.academyforparents.org
Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)	CA – Statewide & National	www.piqe.org
Parent Leaders Uniting Schools (PLUS)	Skokie, IL	
Parent Voices California	CA – Statewide	www.parentvoices.org
Parent Voices CocoKids (Contra Costa Chapter)	Antioch, CA	www.parentvoices.org
Parents Amplifying Voices in Education (PAVE)	Washington, D.C.	www.dcpave.org
Parents for Healthy Homes (PFHH)	Grand Rapids, MI	www.healthyhomescoalition.org/PFHH
Parents United – Galveston	Galveston, TX	
Parents United for Change	East St. Louis, IL	www.cofionline.org
Partnership for Community Action (PCA)	Albuquerque, NM	www.forcommunityaction.org
Somali Parents Education Board (SPEB)	Seattle, WA	www.speboard.org
Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP Parent Ambassadors (WSA)	WA – Statewide	www.wsaheadstarteceap.com
White Center Parent Ambassadors	Seattle, WA	www.wccda.org
Witnesses to Hunger	PA – Statewide	www.centerforhungerfreecommunities.org/our-projects/witnesses-hunger.org





UNITED PARENT LEADERS ACTION NETWORK

To: Kimberly Watkins-Foote; U.S. Department of Education; Director; National Engagement Division; Office of Communications and Outreach
From: The Governing Council of the United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN)
Date: March 25, 2022
Subject: National Parents and Families Engagement Council

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft plans for a National Parents and Families Engagement Council (“the Council”) to the U.S. Department of Education (“USED”). We are excited that USED will engage in dialogue with families about the critical issues facing our schools and communities. UPLAN has developed a proposal for a Parent And Family Advisory Council to USED, dating back to 2017, but recently updated in 2021 (attached). We see this recent plan from USED for the Council as an important step toward that vision for true partnership between families and educators at all levels of decision making from federal to local.

We have reviewed the proposal and have some questions:

- What are the USED’s expectations of parents who participate in the Council? What capacities do they need to bring to the table?
- What resources will be available to support this work? We are curious about available resources to support the activities happening at the national level (i.e. the time, travel, and expertise of the parents engaging at the Council meetings). We are also curious about resources to support the activities happening at the local level (i.e. Council members convening and engaging parents in their cities/communities).

In addition to these questions, we have some recommendations:

- The partnership between parents and USED must be a two-way street. Not only should the Council members bring information, tools, and calls to action from USED to local communities, but the Council should also bring knowledge and feedback from local communities to impact the Department’s vision, programs, and decisions.
- Across UPLAN, there are local organizations supporting parents to convene and lead conversations on education issues. For example, during the 2020-21 school year, [Parent Institute for Quality Education \(PIQE\)](#) held family programs focused on education issues in partnership with 233 schools across California. [Collaborative Parent Leadership Action Network \(CPLAN\)](#) in Massachusetts hosts workshops that bring families and educators together to discuss equity, diversity, and inclusion in education. These are just a few of the many bright spots across the country where families are leading efforts to engage and activate parents on the education issues that matter. The local activities implemented by members of this Council should build on existing work to convene and facilitate information sharing, training, dialogue, and collective action among families and avoid creating repetitive structures or “reinventing the wheel.”

- We believe it's critical for the Council's membership to be diverse, representative of the many experiences of families in education systems, and ensure space for families that are not often at education decision making tables (including Black and Brown parents, immigrants, families whose primary language is not English etc.). The Council should include families from a variety of education settings such as rural schools, elementary and secondary schools, Head Start programs, school District or state run pre-K programs, special education programs, dual language programs, migrant education programs, Indian education programs, Title I schools, faith based, private, and charter schools.
- Given the complexity of ensuring broad representation and identifying parents with the right leadership skills and supports, we recommend that USED convene an implementation committee of stakeholders to give input on the Council's membership and structure. This committee would give input on written materials describing the capacities and qualifications needed, an opportunity for organizations and parents to nominate or apply, and a process for vetting applicants/nominees.
- We think UPLAN uniquely brings together diverse parents with strong leadership capacities backed by local organizations, and therefore should be considered to nominate more than one parent to the Council.

Thank you again for inviting our feedback on this plan to elevate family voice at USED and across the country. We look forward to partnering with you in the months and years ahead to bring the voices of a key stakeholder group to our shared goal of supporting all students to succeed!



DEFENDING
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UNITED PARENT LEADERS ACTION NETWORK

UPLAN Proposal for a Parent and Family Advisory Council to the U.S. Department of Education

July 2021

Proposal:

The United States Department of Education (USED) creates both an Office of Family and Community Engagement and a separate Parent and Family Advisory Council to the Secretary of USED in order to bring the perspectives and expertise of a key stakeholder group to policy development across the agency, leading to improved educational outcomes for all students.

Background:

The United Parent Leaders Action Network (UPLAN) is a non-partisan network of parent leaders from across the country who are passionate about children and improving the systems that affect families. Our membership includes 33 parent leadership organizations encompassing over 700,000 individual parents (see our membership list [here](#)). UPLAN members have led efforts at the state and local levels to increase opportunity and support the well-being of children, including advancing family engagement programming, promoting community schools, improving and expanding early education opportunities, and creating and training parent advisory groups. UPLAN parents have been keynote speakers at national convenings, presenters on webinars, and facilitators of workshops at conferences. We are eager to connect the experience and expertise of the parents from our network to USED's policy work and believe that a new Parent and Family Advisory Council is needed to create meaningful dialogue.

UPLAN also works with the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) and is supportive of their proposal for an Office of Family and Community Engagement in USED. UPLAN's hope is that the Parent and Family Advisory Council and a new Office of Family and Community Engagement can both emerge as complementary components of an overall USED-wide strategy for partnering with parents to improve outcomes for all students.

Parent and Family Advisory Council Mission:

Outcomes for all students improve when families are part of the creation, implementation, and evaluation of education policy. The Parent and Family Advisory Council will connect the real-life perspectives of a diverse, representative group of parents to US ED's policies and programs to inform design and implementation efforts. Research has shown that when schools engage families as leaders, educational outcomes in the areas of academics, school climate, cultural competence, and health and safety improve. US ED would model that evidence-based practice of family leadership by creating a Parent and Family Advisory Council, and advance the Secretary's strategic priority to strengthen parent voice in the educational process.

Purview and Scope:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has legislated that stakeholders, including families, must be engaged in the development of policy. The Parent and Family Advisory Council will mirror those requirements at the federal level. It will make recommendations, engage in dialogue, and provide feedback on USED's programs. Families have expertise and experience with many aspects of the education system. Therefore, the Council will advise on the full array of policies and programs under USED's jurisdiction and will provide specific recommendations regarding proposed legislation, program guidance and implementation, grants and funding opportunities, and budgets.

Implementation:

The Parent and Family Advisory Council will be a standing, ongoing body comprised of 21 parents who represent a diversity of perspectives and experiences. Parents will apply to serve two-year terms, with a maximum of two terms totaling four years of service maximum per person. A transition in administration will not impact the terms of parent representatives. The council will convene in-person at least 4 times per year.

Selection will be based on diverse representation of parents with a "stake" in the many areas of policy and programming under USED's jurisdiction. At a minimum, the council will include representation of parents from each of the following stakeholder groups:

- Rural schools
- Elementary schools
- Secondary schools
- Head Start programs
- School District or state run pre-K programs
- Special education programs
- Dual Language Learners (DLL) and/or immigrant families
- Migrant education programs
- Indian education programs
- Title I Schools
- Faith based / private schools / charter schools
- Families experiencing homelessness

Selection for the council will also be based on experience with and passion for engaging with schools demonstrated through an application. The application form and a rubric outlining the characteristics sought and the way applications are scored will be developed by USED with input from existing experts in the field of family engagement, including parents and families, and shared publicly. Criteria related to diverse representation (including geography, race, ethnicity, and gender) that are not reflected in the stakeholder categories above can be integrated into the selection rubric. Applications will gather essential personal and demographic information, but will not be used to capture sensitive personal information such as Social Security Number, family income, immigration, or marital status. A core component of the success of the Council will be joint training with USED staff to understand authentic parent leadership and engagement.

Before the launch of the council, an implementation committee will further develop a plan for its governance (in alignment with the Federal Advisory Committee Act), budget, and internal structure.

Conclusion:

Parents across the country are committed to working with policy makers to improve outcomes for our nation's children. A Parent and Family Advisory Council to the U.S. Department of Education will invigorate family engagement in schools across the country by integrating the evidence-based practices of family-school partnerships into policy and programming at the federal level.



From: [REDACTED]@parentsatthetable.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Ellis, Dawn [REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]@spanadvocacy.org
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Apologies!

On Tue, May 10, 2022 at 1:45 PM Ellis, Dawn <[REDACTED]@ed.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the prompt reply. Please attach document with comments.

Dawn

From: [REDACTED]@parentsatthetable.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Ellis, Dawn <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]@spanadvocacy.org
Subject: Re: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you, [REDACTED].

I am the Executive Director of both the SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) and the National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE) and I am very interested in participating in the Council, as I have been for the last several months in the informal Family Council along with Carolyn Hayer, who works for SPAN but who is also a member of the National PLACE board of directors.

SPAN is a founding member of National PLACE, an organization whose members are all family-led, family-serving organizations committed to enhancing the voice and impact of families and family-led organizations at decision-making tables at all levels. National PLACE was founded explicitly to focus on family involvement and family leadership. Our mission fits squarely within Secretary Cardona's priority to support family engagement.

National PLACE has 75 members across the country, including family-led, family-serving organizations at the local, state, and national level. We have statewide members in 40 states and (from the east to the west coast, midwest, south, southwest, etc.) members in 27 underserved communities such as San Francisco, Denver, Hartford, New Orleans, DC, NYC, and Philadelphia, among others, as well as several national organizations including the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Our members include Parent Centers, Family to Family

Health Information Centers, National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health chapters, local Family Resource Centers, and others. National PLACE was formed explicitly to bring together these family-led, family-serving organizations across systems as opposed to silos, with a special focus on families that face the greatest challenges due to poverty, racial/ethnic/language/immigrant discrimination, or disability/special healthcare needs. Our members would be happy to support local meetings around the country to have discussions about the important issues addressed in the document.

I have made some suggested edits to the document, attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need any additional information from me.

On Tue, May 10, 2022 at 8:15 AM Ellis, Dawn <[REDACTED]@ed.gov> wrote:

Good morning, [REDACTED] – see the message below and attached document. Initially I recommended SPAN to be a part of the Council. Carolyn recommends you being the representative and NATIONAL Place be the organization. I will need to run this through Leadership but in the meantime please comment (as the NATIONAL Place rep) as indicated below so I can move forward with press releases and other documents. Either way, you'll be at the table. Let me know if you have questions.

[REDACTED] feel free to bring [REDACTED] up to speed. Thanks.

[REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED] - I hope this message finds you well. As you know, the Secretary strongly believes that parents are core partners in the education of our children and has often said that parents are their children's first – and most important – teachers. As a parent and educator himself, the Secretary has seen the incredible value in the partnership between parents and families, educators, district leaders, and entire school communities to support student success.

Now more than ever, schools and districts must work closely with parents and families if we want to be successful in our efforts to keep our schools open safely and address the impacts COVID-19 has had on our Nation's students. To this end, the Secretary and staff at the Department have been working to build strong relationships at the national and local levels and your organization is key to the success of these efforts. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the deep relationships and connections needed between parents, families, schools and the school community.

To further these relationships, the Department hopes to facilitate key engagements with parents, families, teachers, and school staff critical for tackling learning loss and reimagining education. I am sharing with you today a draft outline for the development of a National Parents and Families Engagement Council as an opportunity for the Department to listen, learn and engage families. The Council would help to ensure parents' voices play a critical role in how their children are recovering from the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally.

We would appreciate your written or verbal feedback or questions on any of the following (but not limited to) by **Monday, May 9th**:

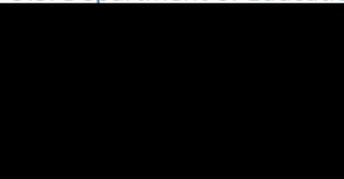
- Timing for the launch
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- The role of national and local Council members
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We would also like to know if your organization is interested in providing a member to the Council (all organizations interested will be vetted prior to joining the Council). If interested in participating in the Council, please provide us with 5-10 cities/regions/locales where you have strong membership that could be engaged initially as we launch the Council.

Please keep this document as **close hold** and **do not share** it or its contents outside of your organization. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you,
Dawn

Dawn Ellis
Liaison to Parents and Families
National Engagement Team
Office of Communication and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education



[Sign Up](#) to Receive The Family, School, & Community Engagement Newsletter



[Family, School, & Community Engagement Newsletter \(April\)](#)

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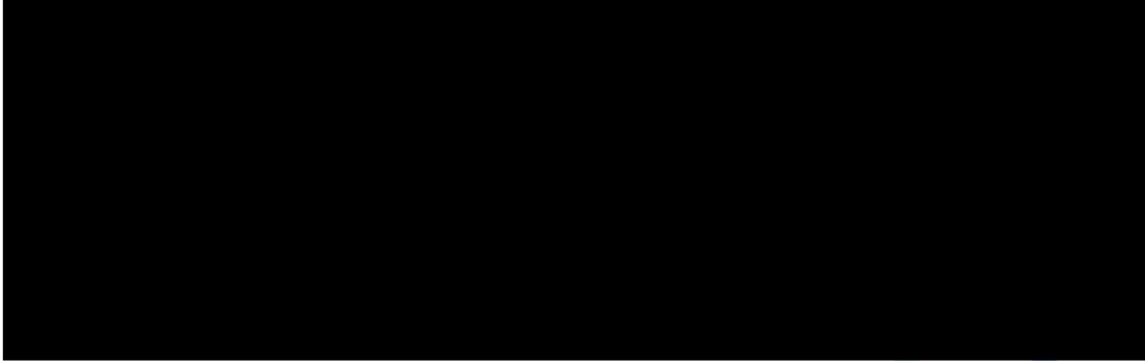
, Director
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, & Community Empowerment





[atthetable.org](https://www.atthetable.org)

Ensuring a place at the table for every family!



National Parents and Families Engagement Council

The **National Parents and Families Engagement Council** (the Council) is an opportunity to listen, learn and engage families. The Council seeks to ensure parents' voices play a critical role in how their children are recovering from the pandemic academically, socially and emotionally.

The Council will consist of parent representatives from national parent and family organizations that will work with the Department of Education to identify constructive ways to help families engage at the local level. From understanding the rights they have as parents, to creating a feedback loop with schools to shape how American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds are deployed to meet students' needs, to identifying summer learning and enrichment opportunities for children in their communities, the Council will be a channel for parents and families to constructively participate in their children's education.

The Launch:

The Department of Education will announce the Council in mid- to late-April. The announcement may include:

- Names of an initial list of national groups affiliated with the Council
- Mission of the Council
- Website to house toolkits and other resources
- Date of first National Council meeting
- First round of local Council meetings with senior Department officials joining the conversations
- Social media amplification from each group

National Meeting:

Each group will identify a parent to represent them at the national level, holding the first meeting by the end of April and using it as an opportunity to share the concerns of the families each group represents.

The national meeting will create a call to action that brings parents, families and school stakeholders together for local conversations about how to meet the needs of students coming out of the pandemic.

Resources shared at national meeting:

- Toolkit for local chapters to host conversations
- Toolkit for how families can best engage with their school

Local Level:

The Council members will convene local meetings around the country for productive conversations about how to help students recover from the pandemic. Families can learn about how ARP funds can and are being used – and could suggest additional uses – in their school to help support students' academic and mental health needs.

How You Can Get Involved:

Have your organization join the National Parents and Families Engagement Council and help schools and families work together to help students recover from the pandemic and thrive! Note: participants and organizations will be vetted prior to joining the Council.

From: [Ellis, Dawn](#)
To: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
Subject: FW: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:57:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[National Parents and Families Engagement Council DA.pdf](#)

From: Ellis, Dawn

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 2:10 PM

To: Meadvin, Hayley <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>; Rhodes, Christian <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>; Shah, Shital C. <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>; Hartge, Anna <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>; Thomas, Rachel <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>

Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov>; Honeysett, Adam <Adam.Honeysett@ed.gov>; Toney, Lawanda <LaWanda.Toney@ed.gov>

Subject: FW: Embargoed Document Around Parent and Family Engagement at ED

Per earlier email, attached are comments from National PLACE (replacing SPAN).

Dawn

I am the Executive Director of both the SPAN Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) and the National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE) and I am very interested in participating in the Council, as I have been for the last several months in the informal Family Council along with Carolyn Hayer, who works for SPAN but who is also a member of the National PLACE board of directors.

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Summary of Comments on National Parents and Families Engagement Council_DA (002).pdf

Page: 1

Number: 1	Author: Diana	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 5/10/2022 1:31:35 PM
and the family-led, family-serving organizations that support them.			
Number: 2	Author: Diana	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 5/10/2022 1:32:22 PM
and state			
Number: 3	Author: Diana	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 5/10/2022 1:35:02 PM
to sharing opportunities and resources for families to develop their leadership knowledge and skills to be more effective advocates at both the individual and systems level,			
Number: 4	Author: Diana	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 5/10/2022 1:35:36 PM
June is a more reasonable time frame			
Number: 5	Author: Diana	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 5/10/2022 1:36:09 PM
June would be more reasonable especially if it will be in person			
Number: 6	Author: Diana	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 5/10/2022 1:36:43 PM
school, district, and/or state			



DEFENDING
EDUCATION

From: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
To: [REDACTED]@adc.org"
Subject: National Parents and Families Council at the U.S. Department of Education
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 12:49:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[National Parent and Family Engagement Council Standards 5-18-22.pdf](#)
[National Parents and Families Engagement Council 5-18-22.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good afternoon Abed,

My name is Kimberly Watkins-Foote and I work in the Office of Communications and Outreach at the U.S. Department of Education. The Department is launching a National Parents and Families Engagement Council to facilitate strong and effective relationships between schools and parents, families and caregivers, helping their voices play a critical role in how the nation's children are recovering from the pandemic.

We would like to include the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee as a member organization. Would you be able to point me in the direction of the appropriate person at ADC for consideration of participation? I have attached a few of pieces of collateral we have on the council and would appreciate your review.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kimberly Watkins-Foote

Director, National Engagement Division
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education

[REDACTED]



National Parents and Families Engagement Council Standards

The National Parents and Families Engagement Council (the Council) is an opportunity to listen, learn and engage families and caregivers. The Council seeks to ensure parents' voices play a critical role in how their children are recovering from the pandemic academically, socially, and emotionally. The Council will help identify constructive ways for parents, families and caregivers to engage in their children's education. The goal of the Council is to be reflective of the diversity of the country and our public schools.

Each participating organization should:

- Have a national chapter that sets policy agendas and priorities;
- Oversee local and/or regional chapters that meet regularly with local stakeholders;
- Have a direct relationship to parents, families, caregivers and the school community(s);
- Be focused on helping foster productive conversations between parents, families, caregivers and schools related to recovering from the pandemic;
- Be committed to helping create strategic engagements between parents, families, caregivers and schools that will help students thrive.

As a Council participant, organizations are encouraged to:

- Assign 1-3 parents (family members or caregivers), who are not on the national board or members of the executive committee, to represent the organization on the Council
- Host quarterly local meetings or virtual roundtables/listening sessions
- Share content on the importance of family engagement on social media, including ways to engage productively
- Share Council-related content on their website, social channels, and/or newsletters Share Council-related content on their website, social channels, and/or newsletters

Organization's parent/family member/caregiver representative must be actively engaged in their community and have at least one K-12 public and/or home school student. Please take the following into consideration when selecting a representative:

- Parent/Caregiver's ability to reflect the concerns and issues of their particular community
- Parent/Caregiver's ability to bring a local perspective but also be able to speak to national issues
- Parent/Caregiver's ability to communicate messaging effectively
- Parent/Caregiver's ability to develop comradery amongst peers
- Parent/Caregiver's ability to participate in national meetings, bringing topics gathered from local meetings to the table

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National Parents and Families Engagement Council

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The Council will consist of parent, family and caregiver representatives from national parent and family organizations that will work with the U.S. Department of Education to identify constructive ways to help families engage at the local level. From understanding the rights they have as parents and caregivers, to creating a feedback loop with schools to shape how American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds are deployed to meet students' needs, to identifying summer learning and enrichment opportunities for children in their communities, the Council will be a channel for parents, families and caregivers to constructively participate in their children's education.

National Meeting:

Each group will identify 1-3 parent, family or caregivers to represent them at the national level, holding the first meeting by the end of June and using it as an opportunity to discuss how the 2021-22 school year went, the state of recovery for students and what they'd like to see at school next fall.

The national meeting will create a call to action that brings parents, families, caregivers and school stakeholders together for local conversations about how to meet the needs of students coming out of the pandemic.

Local Level:

The Council members will convene local meetings around the country for productive conversations about how to help students recover from the pandemic. Families and caregivers can learn about how ARP funds can and are being used – and could suggest additional uses – in their school to help support students' academic and mental health needs.

How You Can Get Involved:

Have your organization join the National Parents and Families Engagement Council and help schools and families work together to help students recover from the pandemic and thrive! Note: participants and organizations will be vetted prior to joining the Council.

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- Parent/Caregiver's ability to participate in national meetings, bringing topics gathered from local meetings to the table

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National Meeting:

Each group will identify 1-3 parent, family or caregivers to represent them at the national level, holding the first meeting by the end of June and using it as an opportunity to discuss how the 2021-22 school year went, the state of recovery for students and what they'd like to see at school next fall.

The national meeting will create a call to action that brings parents, families, caregivers and school stakeholders together for local conversations about how to meet the needs of students coming out of the pandemic.

Local Level:

The Council members will convene local meetings around the country for productive conversations about how to help students recover from the pandemic. Families and caregivers can learn about how ARP funds can and are being used – and could suggest additional uses – in their school to help support students' academic and mental health needs.

How You Can Get Involved:

Have your organization join the National Parents and Families Engagement Council and help schools and families work together to help students recover from the pandemic and thrive! Note: participants and organizations will be vetted prior to joining the Council.

From: [Redacted]
To: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
Subject: Re: National Parents and Families Council Invitation
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:00:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kimberly,

Thank you for honoring National Fatherhood Initiative with an invitation to join the council. It's focus is much needed.

Unfortunately, we don't meet the criteria that you seek in organizations to join the council (e.g. have a national chapter that sets policy agendas and priorities, and oversee local and/or regional chapters that meet regularly with local stakeholders).

Best wishes for success in forming the council,

XXXXXXXXXX

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 12:37 PM Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov> wrote:

Hello XXXXs,

I hope this email finds you and your family well.

I wanted to let you know that the Department of Education is launching a National Parents and Families Engagement Council and would like to invite the National Fatherhood Initiative, Inc. to be a member organization. I know you have recommended Fatherhood Inc. as a good group for ED to connect with but still wanted to put the ask out to you. I have attached a few of pieces of collateral we have on the council and would appreciate your organizations participation.

Thanks for your consideration.



Kimberly Watkins-Foote
Director, National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach | United States Department of Education



--
[Redacted] **President**
National Fatherhood Initiative® | [fatherhood.org](#) | Shop [fathersource.org](#)
[Redacted] [@fatherhood.org](#) | p: [Redacted]
NEW! Build and request your own quote from our store! [Learn How >](#)
M [Redacted] 5

National Parents and Families Engagement Council Standards

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Each participating organization should:

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- Be focused on helping foster productive conversations between parents, families, caregivers and schools related to recovering from the pandemic;
- Be committed to helping create strategic engagements between parents, families, caregivers and schools that will help students thrive.

As a Council participant, organizations are encouraged to:

- Assign 1-3 parents (family members or caregivers), who are not on the national board or members of the executive committee, to represent the organization on the Council
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How You Can Get Involved:

Have your organization join the National Parents and Families Engagement Council and help schools and families work together to help students recover from the pandemic and thrive! Note: participants and organizations will be vetted prior to joining the Council.

From: [Watkins-Foote, Kimberly](#)
To: [\[redacted\]@jack-and-jill.org](#)
Subject: National Parents and Families Council Invitation
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 12:37:00 PM
Attachments: [National Parents and Families Engagement Council 5.10.22.pdf](#)
[National Parent and Family Engagement Council Standards.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Hello [redacted].

I hope this email finds you and your family well.

I wanted to let you know that the Department of Education is launching a National Parents and Families Engagement Council and would like to invite Jack and Jill of America to be a member organization. I have attached a few of pieces of collateral we have on the council and would appreciate your organizations participation.

Thanks for your consideration.



Kimberly Watkins-Foote
Director, National Engagement
Office of Communications and Outreach | United States Department of Education



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National Parents and Families Engagement Council

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How You Can Get Involved:

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From: [REDACTED]
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly
Subject: Re: Fw: National Parent and Family Council Invitation
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 10:52:09 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am! That would work very well.

Gratefully,

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 10:51 AM Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov> wrote:

[REDACTED]n,

Are you free Thursday @ 3pm?

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@parentalrights.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:22 PM
To: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Cc: Rhodes, Christian <Christian.Rhodes@ed.gov>; Dowling, Maureen <Maureen.Dowling@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Fw: National Parent and Family Council Invitation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Kimberly,

Thank you so much for your email! Yes, I'd love to talk with you next week. It's currently pretty wide open, so please let me know what would be most convenient for your schedule.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 3:12 PM Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov> wrote:

Hello Will,

Thank you for your interest in the Council and reaching out. While initial list is locked for the launch there is definitely the opportunity to join we would love to have you on board. Are you available for a conversation next week to discuss in further detail?

From: William Estrada <will@parentalrights.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Rhodes, Christian <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>

Cc: Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>; Dowling, Maureen <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: Fw: National Parent and Family Council Invitation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED]

My friends at HSLDA sent me the information that you had provided to them about the National Parent and Family Council. I run the Parental Rights Foundation, a nationwide 501c3 organization focused on parental rights. We have state coordinators, and work with families from across the political spectrum on issues related to protecting parental rights and family integrity.

I don't know if it's too late to be considered to be invited to be a part of this Council, but we would be very interested in participating, if you would have us.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Maureen Dowling (copied on this email) knows me, as we used to work together when I worked at HSLDA from 2006 - 2018.

Very Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

From: Rhodes, Christian <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:36 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@hsllda.org>
Cc: Dowling, Maureen <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>; Watkins-Foote, Kimberly <[REDACTED]@ed.gov>
Subject: National Parent and Family Council Invitation

Good day,

My name is [REDACTED] and a few weeks back I sent an email around this topic. I am not sure if it was received or if I had the wrong email but I wanted to follow up. The Department of Education is launching a National Parents and Families Engagement Council and would appreciate participation/representation from a constituency that often is left out of these discussions. I have attached a few of pieces of collateral we have on the council and would appreciate your organizations participation.

I have also copied my Kim who can provide a little more detail if necessary.

Thanks again for your consideration.

[REDACTED]
Senior Advisor

Office of the Secretary | United States Department of Education



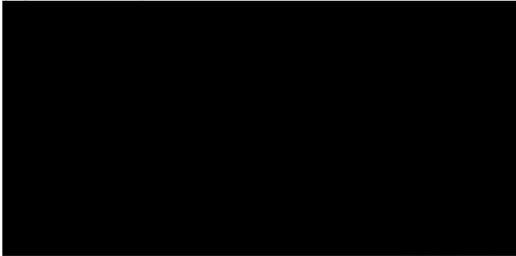
400 Maryland Avenue SW | Washington, D.C. 20202



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Parental Rights Foundation
P.O. Box 1090
Purcellville, VA 20134

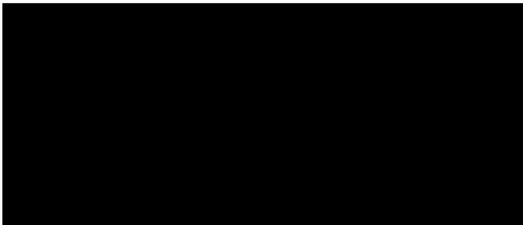


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President
ParentalRights.org & Parental Rights Foundation
P.O. Box 1090
Purcellville, VA 20134



<https://parentalrightsfoundation.org/>
"protecting children by empowering parents"

