

Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

NRS 385.635

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

NRS 385.635 (2) on or before August 1 of each year, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement shall prepare a report which includes a summary of the:

Section A:

Activities of the Office during the immediately preceding school year, including the progress made by the Office, in consultation with the Advisory Council, in assisting the school districts and public schools with increasing the effectiveness of involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children.

Pursuant to NRS 385.635, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement created by NRS 385.630 shall:

NRS 385.635 (a)

Review and evaluate the programs implemented by the school districts and public schools, including, without limitation, programs which are supported in part with money received from the Federal Government, for carrying out and increasing parental involvement and family engagement in the public schools. The review and evaluation must include an identification of current strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- Review, evaluation, and identification of current strategies can be found in Section B on page 8.

NRS 385.635 (b)

Develop a list of practices which have been proven effective in increasing the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children, including, without limitation, practices that increase the ability of school districts and public schools to effectively reengage parents and families and provide those parents and families with the skills and resources necessary to support the academic achievement of their children.

- Through ongoing dialogue, presentations from districts and organizations, and participation in forums, seminars, and conferences, the Office and Council has identified the following four practices, when implemented correctly, as being high impact and effective in increasing the engagement of families in the education of their children:
 - Building relationships and creating welcoming environments
 - Building the capacity of both school staff and families by providing:
 - classes for families on various topics of interest including support learning at home
 - professional development for school staff on family engagement and cultural competency
- Home Visits
- Academic Parent Teacher Teams

NRS 385.635 (c)

Work in cooperation with the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs in carrying out the duties of the Office, including, without limitation, the establishment of a statewide training program concerning parental involvement and family engagement required pursuant to NRS 391.520.

- The Office partnered with Leadership for Educational Equity Fellows to disaggregate and analyze 2014-2015 School Performance Plan baseline data to determine 2020 goals and priorities. Fellows reviewed School Performance Plans from the 73 consistently underperforming schools previously identified by the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Of the 73 underperforming schools that were reviewed, only 13 utilized all 6 Nevada Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy standards. The Office will share findings with the Statewide Council for the Coordination of the Regional Training Programs to determine next steps in establishing a statewide training program concerning family engagement.

NRS 385.635 (d)

Provide information to the school districts and public schools on the availability of competitive grants for programs which offer:

- (1) Professional development for educational personnel on practices to reengage disengaged parents and families in the education of their children;**
- (2) Training for parents and families in skills of leadership and volunteerism;**
- (3) Family literacy training;**
- (4) Home visitation programs to encourage the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the education of their children; and**
- (5) Other innovative programs that are designed to increase the involvement of parents and the engagement of families in the academic achievement of their children.**

- The Office is engaged in ongoing grant searches to inform school districts and public schools of the availability of competitive grants. Grant opportunities are shared with Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) District Liaisons during bi-monthly webinars. Liaisons and other public school employees receive grant opportunities via email when grants deadlines are due before scheduled webinars. Additionally, the Office has created a Listserv that allows Liaisons and other interested parties to receive periodic emails regarding grant opportunities.

NRS 385.635 (e)

Provide support to those school districts which have established an advisory council on parental involvement and family engagement pursuant to NRS 385.625 and encourage those school districts which have not established such an advisory council to consider creating an advisory council for the school district.

- The following school districts have established advisory councils for parental involvement and family engagement:
 - Carson City – Family Life Advisory Council
 - Clark – Trustee Parent Advisory Councils (7)
 - Douglas – Parent Advisory Committee
 - Humboldt – Parent Advisory Panels (2)
 - Lincoln – Parent Advisory Councils (9 – each school has a PAC)
 - Lyon – Site Parent Advisory Councils (17), Area PACs (5), and District PAC (1)
 - Washoe – Council on Family Engagement
- The Office will encourage school districts that have not yet established advisory councils for parental involvement and family engagement to establish a council. Interested districts will be connected with PIFE District Liaisons to determine the feasibility of establishing an advisory council in their district. The Office will continue to familiarize itself with Open Meeting Law to aide school districts in maximizing family and community engagement at council meetings.

NRS 385.635 (f)

Build the capacity of public schools to work in collaboration with parents to establish policies for the involvement of parents and the engagement of families, including, without limitation, policies that focus on partnerships between public schools and the parents and families of children enrolled in public schools and the empowerment of parents and families in support of the education of their children.

- The State Board of Education adopted the Nevada Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy on September 3, 2015. The Office has referenced the State Policy during webinars and when meeting with administrators and district PIFE Liaisons. During the 2016-2017 school year, the Office, in collaboration with the Council, will review updated school district policies and support schools in developing their own policies that align with district and State policies.

NRS 385.635 (g)

Work in cooperation with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education in developing the regulations required by paragraph (k) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 and monitoring the implementation of those regulations.

- Pursuant to NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045, effective July 2015, initial educator licenses require at least 3 semester hours of coursework related to parental involvement and family engagement that: is consistent with the elements and goals for effective involvement and engagement set forth in NRS 392.457; and includes an emphasis on building relationships, outreach to families and developing an appreciation and understanding of families from diverse backgrounds.
- The Office, in collaboration with NDE's Office of Educator Development and Support, created a system for reviewing Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) courses to ensure they met the requirement set forth in NRS 391.019 and NAC 391.045. Twenty courses have been reviewed and sixteen have met the requirements. The Office supported several IHEs during this review process as they incorporated missing components into their coursework. Approved courses can be found on the Office's [website](#). The Office will continue to work with faculty interested in having course reviewed.

NRS 385.635 (h)

Establish, in collaboration with the State Board, guidelines to assist parents and families in helping their children achieve the standards of content and performance adopted by the State Board pursuant to NRS 389.520.

- The State Board of Education adopted a [Nevada Parental Involvement and Family Engagement Policy](#) on September 3, 2015. This policy was drafted by the Council on Parent Involvement and Family Engagement with support from the Nevada Department of Education.

NRS 385.635 (i)

Collaborate with the Nevada State Parent Information and Resource Center, the Parent Training and Information Centers, the Nevada Parent Teacher Association, the Advisory Council and the teachers who are trained to serve as liaisons to parents and legal guardians of pupils enrolled in public schools to plan and implement a statewide summit on parental involvement and family engagement, which must be held at least biennially. After each summit, the Office of Parental

Involvement and Family Engagement shall evaluate the success of the summit in consultation with the entities identified in this paragraph.

- The Office assembled a fifteen member Summit Steering Committee that is comprised of members from the following school districts and organizations:
 - Carson City County School District
 - Clark County School District
 - Douglas County School District
 - Lyon County School District
 - Nevada Department of Education
 - Nevada Parent Teacher Association
 - Public Education Foundation/Advisory Council for Parent Involvement and Family Engagement
 - State Public Charter School Authority
 - Washoe County School District
- The Steering Committee met on the following days to plan the 2016 Nevada Family Engagement Summit:
 - December 9, 2015
 - January 12, 2016
 - January 26, 2016
 - February 9, 2016
 - February 23, 2016
 - March 8, 2016
 - April 7, 2016
 - April 19, 2016
 - May 5, 2016
 - May 17, 2016
 - May 31, 2016
 - June 13, 2016
 - July 11, 2016
 - July 25, 2016
- The Steering Committee will meet on the following days in August and weekly in September and October as the Summit approaches:
 - August 8, 2016
 - August 22, 2016

NRS 385.635 (j)

Assist each school district and the public schools within the school district with incorporating strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement into the plans to improve the achievement of pupils prepared by the public schools pursuant to NRS 385.357.

- The Office has a PIFE District Liaison in each of the 17 school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority. To support school districts, the Office has conducted four bi-monthly webinars to create a learning community and offer liaisons an opportunity to receive professional development on topics of interest. The following webinars were held during the FY2016:
 - January – Engaging All Your Parents (National Center for Families Learning speakers)
 - March – Creating a Communication Plan
 - May – Partnering with Families for Summer Learning
 - July – Engaging African American Families and Planning for the 2016-2017 School Year
- During these webinars, liaisons also hear NDE and Council updates. Additionally, liaisons learn about upcoming national webinars, grants, conferences, and opportunities to present workshops. Some liaisons have taken the webinars as opportunities to share district best practices. In the 2016-2017 school year, the Office will invite district experts to share resources

and knowledge with others. Polls are conducted throughout the year to inform professional development opportunities for liaisons and to learn what supports are needed.

- In the Annual PIFE District Reports, districts identified ways in which the Office could support family engagement efforts. District requests were categorized into the 14 areas listed below. The Office is currently engaged in areas 1-5. For the 2016-2017 school year, the Office will support districts in areas 6-10. The last 4 areas where support was requested do not currently fall within the existing statutory guidelines of the Office.

Current Practice	2016-2017	Not within PIFE Office Duties
Information on available grants	Advocate for FE at State Department (ensure FE is a component of State grants)	Grants or funding for supplies, events, programs, travel, etc.
Communicate successful initiatives and strategies	Locate community partners*	Parenting, ESL, Adult Education classes; Translation, transportation and child care services
District Liaison Learning Community	Questions for Parent Involvement Survey*	Regular communication with families and attend school events
Ideas, resources, webinars to assist districts	Monthly Support and Communication*	Provide outreach programs
Statewide Summit	Train staff/learning strategists on FE	

NRS 385.635 (k)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to:

(1) Review and evaluate the annual reports of accountability prepared by the board of trustees of each school district pursuant to NRS 385.347 relating to parental involvement and family engagement in the school districts and public schools;

- The Office, in partnership with the Council, created a Work Plan to drive the Council's work and track accomplishments. Additionally, the Work Plan was created to identify next steps and partners, and to set target completion dates. The following presentations were requested to review and evaluate parental involvement and family engagement in the school districts and schools:
 - Washoe County's Family-School Partnership Office presented to the Council. (November 2015)
 - The Office collaborated with NDE's Office of Assessment, Data and Accountability Management to present accountability reporting changes. This presentation informed the Council members to make the following recommendations (April 2015):
 - Request language in accountability reporting to reflect changes in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
 - Request that school districts submit their Accountability Reports to the Office every March
 - Review the language in NRS 385.3495 to ensure alignment with the Nevada PIFE Policy

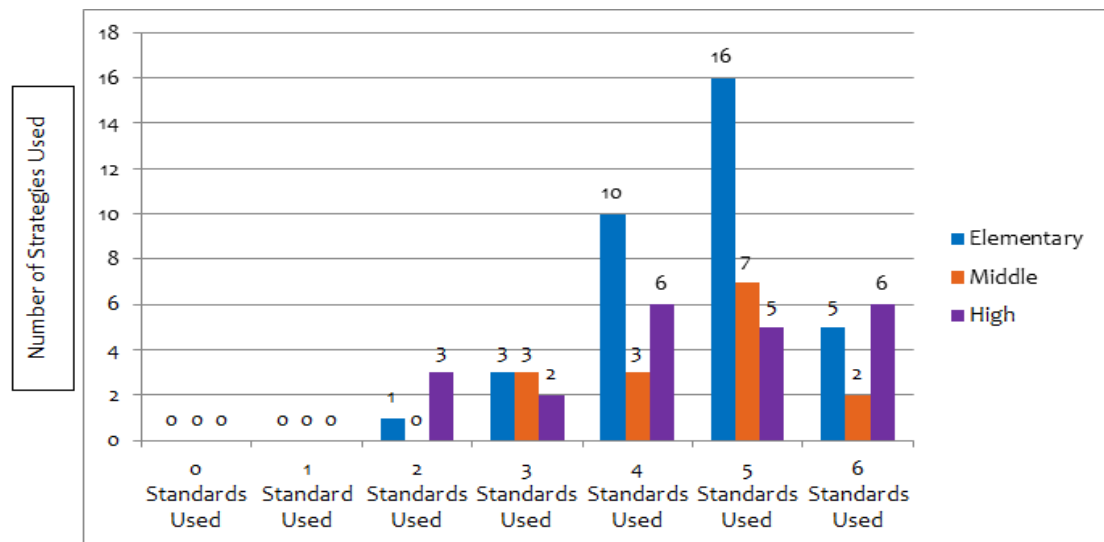
- The Office shared districts' Parent Communication Narratives with Council members. (June 2016)
- Council Members will review district Communication Narratives when reviewing the following in August:
 - 2015-2016 PIFE district Annual Reports
 - School Performance Plan Family Engagement Data
- The Office and Advisory Council created a long range plan and presentation calendar to ensure Council members are reviewing and evaluating school district family engagement efforts on an ongoing cyclical basis.

NRS 385.635 (k)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to:

(2) Review and evaluate the plans to improve the achievement of pupils prepared by each public school pursuant to NRS 385.357 relating to the strategies and practices for effective parental involvement and family engagement incorporated into the plans; and

- The Office reviewed School Performance Plans from the previously identified 73 consistently underperforming schools in the state to determine State Improvement Plan family engagement baseline data and establish 2020 goals. Upon review, it was determined that only 13 of the 73 schools were using strategies in all 6 of the Nevada Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Policy. The breakdown by school level is as follows:



- The Office will follow up with District Liaisons and administrators from the 73 schools to offer support in increasing the use of effective family engagement strategies and best practices in each of the 6 standards.

NRS 385.635 (k)

Work in partnership with the Advisory Council to:

(3) Review the status of the implementation of the provisions of this section and the effectiveness of the Office in carrying out the duties prescribed in this section.

- The Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement was created in 2011 and has worked closely with the Council since its inception. The Council will review the Office's Annual

Report every August to consider the necessity for the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. In future meetings, the Council will also consider the necessity for a coordinator in each district. The Council's work would not be possible without the support of the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement. The Council and Office work closely to:

- prepare Council agendas and materials
- ensure Council is informed of state and national family engagement best practices
- enlist presenters to hear more about state and national family engagement practices
- communicate family engagement best practices to district liaisons and school staff including, but not limited to:
 - participate in numerous seminars, conferences, forums with school districts, statewide, and nationally, as much as budget and time allows
 - update the Nevada Department of Education's PIFE Office website coordinate webinars with district contacts

The Department shall post on its Internet website:

NRS 385.635 (3)

(a) The list of practices developed by the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1;

- The Parental Involvement and Family Engagement [website](#) has been reorganized to allow families, school and district staff easy access to many resources that promote effective family engagement strategies.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, the Office will work with the Council and PIFE District Liaisons to create a resource guide featuring Nevada's best family engagement practices. This will allow the Office and Council an opportunity to spotlight programs, schools, and districts as well as provide other family engagement practitioners ideas on how to incorporate effective strategies in their schools.

NRS 385.635 (3)

(b) The report prepared by the Office pursuant to subsection 2;

- Annual reports can be found [here](#).

NRS 385.635 (3)

(c) Any other information that the Office finds useful for the school districts, public schools, parents, families and general public relating to effective parental involvement and family engagement.

- The Office engages in ongoing dialogue with other State Education Authority (SEA) Family Engagement Leaders to discuss family engagement resources and best practice. By participating in these monthly phone calls, the Office has had the opportunity to connect with several states to learn how Nevada can increase the number of families engaged in their child's education. Practices are shared with Council members during meetings and are uploaded on the [website](#).
- Additionally, the SEA group regularly connects with the US Department of Education (US DOE) to learn about federal policies that impact education and family engagement. The Office collaborated with the US DOE to identify four areas SEAs can focus on to increase statewide

family engagement efforts. A survey was created to capture state family engagement efforts and funding streams to support collaborations between states. Data collected from all states will drive the Office and Council's work to ensure effective family engagement strategies are being implemented in Nevada.

NRS 385.635 (2) on or before August 1 of each year, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement shall prepare a report which includes a summary of the:

Status of the progress made by the school districts and public schools in effectively involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children and an identification of any areas where further improvement is needed.

- Pursuant to NRS 385.635, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) is required to review and evaluate the programs implemented by the school districts and public schools for carrying out and increasing parental involvement and family engagement in the public schools. The Office gathers information regarding family engagement programs through regular communication with district and school staff, site visits, bi-monthly liaison webinars, and an Annual Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Report.
- Each school district and charter school was asked to identify the following for the 2015-2016 Annual Parent Involvement and Family Engagement Report: Current Strategies and Practices, Strengths, Areas for Improvement, and 2016-2017 Goals. All the information in this section was self-reported by the schools and school districts.
- Link to [reports](#)