

## WHAT'S NEW IN ESSA? QUICK FACTS: Parent and Family Engagement Policy, District



For more information on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA),  
Visit:  
<https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=ft>

### NEW TITLE

Parent Involvement is now identified as Parent and Family Engagement, Public Law 114-95 Section 1116. The following items will need to be addressed in the parent and family engagement district policy...

### PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Although this is not entirely new, ESSA places a clear emphasis upon the role of parents as equal partners. Therefore ESSA has strengthened the language by requiring **outreach** to all parents and **meaningful involvement** with parents.

### BUILDING CAPACITY

ESSA reaffirms the responsibility of districts to **“build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA”** Therefore, it is incumbent upon the LEA to provide professional development to staff members about the value of working with families as partners with the goal of improving student achievement.

### COORDINATE and INTEGRATE SERVICES

To the extent feasible the LEA shall coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant Federal, State, and local programs.

### IDENTIFYING BARRIERS

As a part of the evaluation process LEAs must identify **“the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children,”** and **“strategies to support successful school and family interactions.”**

### EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

LEAs must **use the findings** from the evaluation of the parent and family engagement policy **to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement.**