



## **Prospectus: National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)**

*Advancing high-impact policies and practices of Family, School, and Community Engagement to promote child development and improve student achievement*

**The need:** The importance of well-designed family, school and community engagement (FSCE) in supporting children’s learning from cradle to career is well documented by a growing body of research. Not only does FSCE lead to improved student achievement, it strengthens our schools and communities. Yet the current climate of “school reform” has disregarded the importance of engaging families and community. Professionals responsible for this important work frequently are isolated and relegated to low status positions. Teachers, who bear a primary responsibility for contact with families, reveal that reaching families is their number one challenge and the area where they feel least prepared. Few national organizations have FSCE as a priority and those that do are not designed or positioned to build and strengthen the field.

**The opportunity:** Despite the obstacles, FSCE is increasingly recognized as an essential element of child development programs, school improvement strategies, and efforts to reduce the achievement gap. Taking the next step to broad acceptance and implementation, however, will require a coordinated effort dedicated to linking and supporting parents, teachers, administrators, researchers, and policymakers who are committed to developing effective policies, programs, and practices. The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) will provide the necessary platform for advancing high impact practices, promoting evidence-based policies, building capacity and leadership in the field, and upholding FSCE as a core strategy for improving child development and student achievement.

**The participants:** NAFSCE members will include early childhood through post-secondary educators; state, district, and school-based leaders; parent leaders; community and parent organizations; staff of educational and non-profit organizations; and policymakers and researchers concerned with FSCE issues. NAFSCE partners will include national, state, and local organizations committed to improving public education and interested in collaborating with NAFSCE to develop innovative programs and approaches, strengthen their own work with families and community organizations, and disseminate useful information and resources.

**The services and products:** NAFSCE will become the primary gateway for anyone interested in engaging families and the community in improving student learning. Its offerings will include a website containing cutting-edge information, links to high quality programs and resources, an ongoing webinar series, a research and information clearinghouse, a community of practice networking platform, a talent bank, and policy and advocacy for FSCE. For partners, NAFSCE will offer opportunities for collaboration, consultation, strategic planning advice, and professional development.

**The affiliates:** The National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (NCPIE), with a listserv of 1,700, will come under the NAFSCE umbrella, and be re-named the NAFSCE Network. The NAFSCE Network will conduct several meetings annually, with opportunities for remote participation. Similarly, the National Working Group for Family, School, and Community Engagement will become the policy arm of NAFSCE. The National Working Group was formed in 2009 as a group of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers who convened to share information and shape policy with the White House, the Department of Education, and leaders on Capitol Hill.

**The launch:** NAFSCE was launched in September 2014 by the Mid-Atlantic-Equity Consortium, Inc.

For more information, sign up at [www.NAFSCE.org](http://www.NAFSCE.org).

**The sponsors:** Planning and implementation for NAFSCE is supported by the Heising-Simons Foundation. Additional sponsors include The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, ZG Ventures, LLC., Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), and SEDL.

The coordinators for the Planning Grant with continued support for the Implementation Grant are:

- **Anne T. Henderson**, Annenberg Institute for School Reform, [annethenderson1@yahoo.com](mailto:annethenderson1@yahoo.com)
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**Vito J. Borrello** serves as NAFSCE's first Executive Director, effective September 2014. Previously, Borrello was the 19-year President of EPIC-Every Person Influences Children, Buffalo, NY.

**Founding Board:** The founding board of NAFSCE consists of the following members:

**Oscar Cruz**, President and CEO, Families in Schools, Los Angeles, CA

**Eugene Garcia**, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

**Anne Henderson**, Senior Consultant, Community Organizing and Engagement, Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Washington DC

**Debra Jennings**, Director, Center for Parent Information and Resources at SPAN, Newark, NJ

**Elena Lopez**, Associate Director, Harvard Family Research Project, Cambridge, MA (alternate for Weiss)

**Karen Mapp**, Senior Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

**Gabrielle Miller**, National Executive Director, Raising a Reader, Redwood City, CA

**Kwesi Rollins**, Project Director for Family/Community Engagement and Early Childhood Education, Institute for Educational Leadership, Washington, DC

**Barb Scherr**, Family Involvement Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education, Baltimore, MD

**Susan Shaffer**, President, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc., and Executive Director, The Mid-Atlantic Equity Center, Bethesda, MD

**Deborah Roderick Stark**, Principal, Deborah Roderick Stark & Associates, Annapolis, MD; Commissioner, First Five Commission, Alameda County, CA

**Sally Wade**, Senior Program Associate, Manhattan Strategy Group, Tampa, FL

**Heather Weiss**, Founder and Director, Harvard Family Research Project, Cambridge, MA

**Sherri Wilson**, Director of Family Engagement, Shine Early Learning, NY

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