

KEEPING PARENTS & COMMUNITIES ENGAGED (PACE) ACT (S.1411; H.R. 3343)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE KEEPING PACE ACT?

The purpose of the Keeping PACE Act is to increase graduation rates and strengthen student performance in school. It will do so by improving parent involvement in education and leveraging community resources to support students' needs in and outside the classroom.

WHAT WILL THE KEEPING PACE ACT DO?

The Keeping PACE Act provides competitive grants to states that will provide competitive subgrants to:

- LEAs receiving Title I funding to hire Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators
- Community based organizations to support students, their schools, and their families
- Consortia consisting of a school district, mayor, and one or more non-profit or for-profit community partners to renovate school facilities to more effectively use them as the center of community.

WHAT WILL PARENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATORS DO?

Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators will connect students who are struggling in school with resources available in the community to help them succeed in the classroom – from mentors and tutors to health care and after-school programs. They will also develop strategies to more intentionally engage parents in the education of their children, establish effective communication between schools and families, and help resolve issues between parents and school staff. Their effectiveness will be measured through such indicators as test scores and grades, attendance rates, and increases in participation in parent/school activities. Best practices will be collected and disseminated nationwide.

The First Focus Campaign for Children is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization affiliated with First Focus, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization. The Campaign for Children advocates directly for legislative change in Congress to ensure children and families are a priority in federal policy and budget decisions.

WHAT WILL COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS DO?

Community based organizations will conduct needs assessments and link students and families with support services – from service-learning and character development opportunities for students to job training and English as a second language classes for parents. Best practices will be collected and disseminated nationwide.

WHAT WILL CONSORTIA DO?

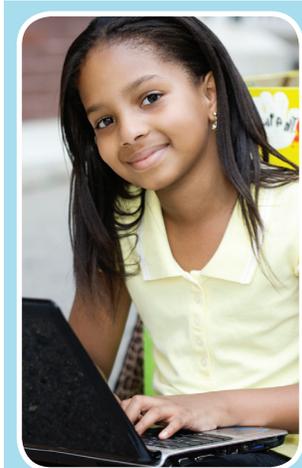
Consortia will work together to renovate school facilities to maximize their use by the community. Renovations could include refurbishing classrooms so they can be used for continuing education classes during evenings or adding health centers to existing school buildings. Funds used for renovations would require a match from non-Federal sources equal to 50 percent of the cost of the renovations.

HOW MUCH WILL THE KEEPING PACE ACT COST?

The Keeping PACE Act authorizes \$260 million per year for five years. Half of the funds would support Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators. The other half would support the work of Community Based Organizations and Consortia to support student achievement.

WHO INTRODUCED THE KEEPING PACE ACT?

The legislation was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ).



For more information about the Keeping PACE Act, contact Phillip Lovell, Vice President of Education, Housing & Youth Policy at First Focus. Phillipl@firstfocus.net; 202.657.0679.



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