

## ESSA and Home Visiting: Opportunities for States

To support state education agencies as they develop plans to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), this brief highlights provisions that underscore the importance of the birth to Kindergarten years, and summarizes key areas related to evidence based home visiting programs such as Parents as Teachers. For a more in-depth summary of key early learning provisions, please see the [memorandum](#) from the Council of Chief State School Officers (ESSA and Early Childhood Education) which also includes thoughtful questions for those charged with implementation.

### *Home Visiting*

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based home visiting model that serves families with young children from pregnancy through Kindergarten. The model is [backed by rigorous evidence](#) that demonstrates that it improves child and family outcomes by increasing parent involvement in their child's care and education, supporting parents' engagement and capacity to develop their children's early literacy and language skills, and helping children achieve school success into the elementary grades. The Parents as Teachers model [meets the evidence based criteria](#) of the [Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program \(MIECHV\)](#). At this time, close to 700 school systems in 33 states and 43 Bureau of Indian Education schools implement the Parents as Teachers home visiting model with federal, state, or local funds.

### *ESSA and Home Visiting Opportunities*

- ESSA maintains early childhood home visiting programs as an allowable use of Title I and Title III funds for family engagement. (Sections 1116 and 3115)
- The 1% set-aside in Title I for family engagement activities, which has been used to support home visiting programs in the past, has also been preserved. (Section 1116)
- States with Pay for Success initiatives that benefit preschool-age or K-12 students can use funds to support home visiting programs. (Section 4108)
- Title II establishes a new literacy grant program that will be open to applications from home visiting programs, in partnership with LEAs or as independent proposals. These grants must be funded through the appropriations process before FOAs are released. (Section 2221)
- New Statewide Family Engagement Centers, modeled after the Parent Information Resource Centers (PIRCs), were created in Title IV. These grants must be funded through the appropriations process before funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) are released. (Section 4501)
- Under Title VI, ESSA's American Indian program supports early childhood and family initiatives that emphasize school readiness (Section 6115), and a grant program that addresses the birth to third grade continuum with an emphasis on school readiness and screening and referral, key components of home visiting. (Section 6121)

- Title VI also includes a grant program that supports home visiting and parenting education for Alaska Native families. (Section 6304)

#### *Title I and Home Visiting in States*

Parents as Teachers affiliates have considerable positive experience with using Title 1 funds with families to prepare their preschool aged children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Twenty-one school districts in Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas reported that they use Title I funds as their primary funding source for Parents as Teachers in the 2014-2015 school year. These programs served more than 1,700 families and 2,150 children. An additional 59 school districts in those states and in Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan and North Carolina used Title I funds to supplement their PAT programs and served an additional 5,863 families with 7,621 children in the 2014-2015 school year. Home visiting was considered an allowable use of Title I funds under NCLB, however, not all states were aware of this provision.

#### *Downloadable resources:*

- [Parents as Teachers Logic Model and Evidence Base](#)
- [Parents as Teachers & School Readiness](#)
- [State Early Learning Standards Alignment with Parents as Teachers](#)
- [ESSA and Early Childhood Education: Opportunities for State Leadership](#), brief by (CCSSO)

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