

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 941

To strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2011

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Family Engagement  
5       in Education Act of 2011”.

6       **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7       The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Findings; purpose.
- Sec. 4. Amendment references.
- Sec. 5. Family engagement in education.
- Sec. 6. State plans.
- Sec. 7. Local educational agency plans.

- Sec. 8. Family engagement in education policy.  
 Sec. 9. Prevention and intervention programs for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent, or at risk.  
 Sec. 10. High-quality teachers and principals.  
 Sec. 11. Family engagement in education programs.  
 Sec. 12. Definitions.  
 Sec. 13. Conforming amendments.  
 Sec. 14. Government Accountability Office study and report.  
 Sec. 15. Federal coordination of family engagement in education programming.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Family engagement in a child’s education  
 4 raises student achievement, improves behavior and  
 5 attendance, decreases drop-out rates, and improves  
 6 the emotional and physical well-being of children.

7 (2) Families are critical determinants of chil-  
 8 dren’s school readiness as well as of students’ deci-  
 9 sion to pursue higher education.

10 (3) Effective family engagement is a great  
 11 equalizer for students, contributing to their in-  
 12 creased academic achievement, regardless of parents’  
 13 education level, ethnicity, or socioeconomic back-  
 14 ground.

15 (4) Family engagement can raise student aca-  
 16 demic achievement so substantially that schools  
 17 would need to increase spending by more than  
 18 \$1,000 per pupil to gain the same results.

19 (5) Positive benefits for children, youth, fami-  
 20 lies, and schools are maximized through effective  
 21 family engagement that—

1           (A) is a shared responsibility in which  
2           schools and other community agencies and or-  
3           ganizations are committed to reaching out to  
4           engage families in meaningful ways and families  
5           are committed to actively supporting their chil-  
6           dren’s learning and development;

7           (B) is continuous across a child’s life from  
8           birth to young adulthood; and

9           (C) reinforces learning that takes place in  
10          all settings.

11       (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to  
12       strengthen families’ engagement in the education of their  
13       children.

14       **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT REFERENCES.**

15       Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
16       this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
17       of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
18       sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
19       section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-  
20       ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

21       **SEC. 5. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION.**

22       (a) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY  
23       FUND.—Title I (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by  
24       adding after section 1004 the following:

1 **“SEC. 1005. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY**  
 2 **FUND.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency  
 4 may reserve not more than 1 percent of such agency’s allo-  
 5 cated funds under section 1122 for each fiscal year for  
 6 use as provided in subsection (b).

7 “(b) USE OF RESERVED FUNDS.—From the amounts  
 8 reserved for each fiscal year under subsection (a), each  
 9 State educational agency shall—

10 “(1) reserve not less than 85 percent for Local  
 11 Family Engagement Centers under section 1006;  
 12 and

13 “(2) reserve not more than 15 percent for State  
 14 educational agency capacity for family engagement  
 15 activities under section 1007.”.

16 (b) LOCAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS PRO-  
 17 GRAM.—Title I (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by  
 18 adding after section 1005, as added by subsection (a), the  
 19 following:

20 **“SEC. 1006. LOCAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS PRO-**  
 21 **GRAM.**

22 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to es-  
 23 tablish and operate Local Family Engagement Centers  
 24 and to evaluate the usefulness and effectiveness of innova-  
 25 tive approaches demonstrated by these centers in engaging  
 26 families in their children’s education by providing training,

1 services, supports, and opportunities that meet families’  
2 needs and remove barriers to their engagement in their  
3 children’s education to improve student achievement.

4 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the funds re-  
5 served to carry out this section under section 1005(b)(1),  
6 a State educational agency shall award grants or enter  
7 into contracts and cooperative agreements with eligible en-  
8 tities to establish and operate Local Family Engagement  
9 Centers.

10 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term  
11 ‘eligible entity’ means a private, nonprofit organization  
12 that—

13 “(1) has a demonstrated record of working with  
14 low-income parents and families in the community;

15 “(2) is located in a community with elementary  
16 schools and secondary schools that receive funds  
17 under part A and is accessible to families of stu-  
18 dents in those schools; and

19 “(3) is partnering with 1 or more local edu-  
20 cational agencies or 1 or more schools that receive  
21 funds under part A.

22 “(d) APPLICATION FOR GRANTS.—To receive a grant  
23 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-  
24 cation to the State educational agency at such time, in

1 such manner, and accompanied by such information as the  
2 State educational agency may require, including—

3 “(1) a description of the entity’s approach on  
4 family engagement in education, including its use of  
5 strength-based strategies;

6 “(2) information demonstrating that the appli-  
7 cant meets the definition of an eligible entity;

8 “(3) information that the applicant has the ca-  
9 pacity to operate a center capable of conducting the  
10 training, services, and support activities to fulfill the  
11 purposes of a Local Family Engagement Center;

12 “(4) information that the applicant will struc-  
13 ture and operate a center of sufficient scope and  
14 quality adequate to serve the needs of the local area  
15 in which it is located;

16 “(5) a description of the entity’s experience in  
17 providing training, services, and support to low-in-  
18 come parents and families, English language learn-  
19 ers, minorities, parents of students with disabilities,  
20 parents of homeless students, foster parents, and  
21 parents of migrant students;

22 “(6) a description of the collaboration with the  
23 local educational agency or school personnel in the  
24 geographic area to be served by the center;

1           “(7) a description of the steering committee, a  
 2           majority of whose members are parents of students  
 3           in schools that receive funds under part A, that will  
 4           direct and implement the activities of the Local  
 5           Family Engagement Center;

6           “(8) a description of how the entity will coordi-  
 7           nate its efforts with the Statewide Family Engage-  
 8           ment Centers under subpart 16 of part D of title V  
 9           in the State;

10           “(9) information that the applicant is capable  
 11           of meeting milestones or deadlines as the State edu-  
 12           cational agency may prescribe; and

13           “(10) such other information as the State edu-  
 14           cational agency determines necessary.

15           “(e) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that re-  
 16           ceives a grant under this section shall establish and oper-  
 17           ate a Local Family Engagement Center and use the grant  
 18           funds to provide training, services, and supports to engage  
 19           families in their children’s education and to build the  
 20           school-family partnerships necessary to ensure that all  
 21           children are on track to graduate from high school ready  
 22           for college and careers, such as through—

23           “(1) assisting parents and families in under-  
 24           standing how they can improve student achievement,  
 25           including how to access ongoing student perform-

1       ance data and related information to support learn-  
2       ing in the classroom with activities at home, and in  
3       afterschool and extracurricular activities;

4               “(2) training parents and families on effective  
5       ongoing communication with their children, teachers,  
6       principals, counselors, administrators, and other  
7       school personnel;

8               “(3) providing direct services to families, such  
9       as home visitation, family literacy programs, and  
10      health and behavioral health services to meet the  
11      needs of families and remove barriers for engaging  
12      in the education of their children;

13              “(4) providing advocacy services to ensure that  
14      families can fully participate in their children’s edu-  
15      cation;

16              “(5) providing supports such as transportation,  
17      childcare, and meals to facilitate families’ engage-  
18      ment in programs implemented or assisted by the  
19      Center;

20              “(6) assisting parents and families in under-  
21      standing how they can prepare their children aca-  
22      demically, socially, and financially for postsecondary  
23      education, including early awareness of the avail-  
24      ability of student financial assistance; and



1           “(2) support the development and implementa-  
2           tion of a statewide family engagement in education  
3           plan.

4           “(b) STATE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATING  
5 COUNCILS.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational  
7           agency that receives funds under part A shall estab-  
8           lish a State Family Engagement Coordinating Coun-  
9           cil (referred to in this section as a ‘Council’) to en-  
10          sure coordination and integration of family engage-  
11          ment in education activities across the education  
12          spectrum.

13          “(2) REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY.—Each  
14          Council shall report to the Governor and the Chief  
15          State School Officer of the State on the Council’s  
16          findings and recommendations regarding family en-  
17          gagement in education and such other information  
18          as the Governor may request.

19          “(3) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

20                 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of the  
21                 State, in consultation with the State edu-  
22                 cational agency, shall determine the number of  
23                 members to serve on the Council and their term  
24                 of office, and shall appoint such members, ini-  
25                 tially, for a full term or for a period of less

1 than a full term, as the Governor determines  
2 appropriate. Such members shall include rep-  
3 resentatives of—

4 “(i) State educational agency pro-  
5 grams, Statewide Family Engagement  
6 Centers under subpart 16 of part D of title  
7 V, and Local Family Engagement Centers  
8 under section 1006 operating in the State;

9 “(ii) parent training and information  
10 centers and community parent resource  
11 centers assisted under sections 671 and  
12 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities  
13 Education Act, operating in the State;

14 “(iii) the State parent teacher associa-  
15 tion and other parent groups;

16 “(iv) family members, students, teach-  
17 ers, and school administrators;

18 “(v) the State’s advisory council on  
19 early childhood education and care;

20 “(vi) colleges and universities; and

21 “(vii) nonprofit organizations and  
22 State governmental agencies serving chil-  
23 dren and families.

24 “(B) RESTRICTION ON GOVERNMENT EM-  
25 PLOYEES.—Not more than 50 percent of the

1 Council members shall be employees of a State  
2 or local unit of government.

3 “(4) DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.—Duties of the  
4 Council shall include any duties the Governor may  
5 specify and the following duties:

6 “(A) Establish a statewide vision of family  
7 engagement in education that is consistent  
8 with, and leverages, Federal family engagement  
9 in education resources and initiatives.

10 “(B) Encourage consistency in family en-  
11 gagement in education policies and practices  
12 across learning settings along the child and  
13 youth life span.

14 “(C) Coordinate Federal, State, and local  
15 family engagement in education programs and  
16 activities.

17 “(D) Coordinate family engagement in  
18 education programs and activities across early  
19 childhood, school-age, vocational and technical,  
20 and higher education programs.

21 “(E) Identify opportunities for family en-  
22 gagement in education collaboration and re-  
23 source sharing among State educational agen-  
24 cies, local educational agencies, and organiza-  
25 tions that support family-school partnerships.

1           “(F) Review the family engagement in  
2           education component of the State plan prepared  
3           under section 1111(d) and submit to the State  
4           educational agency and to the Governor any  
5           recommendations of the Council for modifica-  
6           tions to the plan.

7           “(G) Visit local educational agencies,  
8           schools, and other learning settings to support  
9           the implementation and monitoring of family  
10          engagement in education policies, practices, and  
11          uses of funds.

12          “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Each State may use funds  
13          reserved under section 1005(b)(2) to support the develop-  
14          ment and implementation of the statewide family engage-  
15          ment in education plan described in section 1111(d)  
16          through activities such as—

17                 “(1) supporting an office or staff positions  
18                 within the agency dedicated to family engagement;

19                 “(2) carrying out the State’s responsibilities  
20                 under the Local Family Engagement Centers Pro-  
21                 gram under section 1006;

22                 “(3) developing and implementing a statewide  
23                 data collection and evaluation system on family en-  
24                 gagement metrics to identify schools that would ben-

1       efit from training and support related to family en-  
2       gagement in education;

3               “(4) reviewing local educational agencies’ family  
4       engagement policies and practices as provided by  
5       sections 1112(b)(1)(P) and 1118(i), and evaluating  
6       the use of funds under this subsection;

7               “(5) coordinating technical assistance and sup-  
8       port to local educational agencies with schools that  
9       would benefit from training and support related to  
10      family engagement in education with the Statewide  
11      Family Engagement Centers;

12              “(6) developing curricula for professional devel-  
13      opment for teachers, principals, school librarians,  
14      and other school leaders on improving family en-  
15      gagement in education;

16              “(7) developing standards and curricula for  
17      family engagement in education for teacher and  
18      principal preparation programs; and

19              “(8) coordinating statewide services related to  
20      early education, higher education, child health and  
21      welfare, after-school programs, community service-  
22      learning programs, and other programs to develop  
23      coordinated family engagement in education policies,  
24      practices, and services.”.

1 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
 2 tents in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
 3 cation Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item  
 4 relating to section 1004 the following:

“Sec. 1005. Family engagement and responsibility fund.

“Sec. 1006. Local Family Engagement Centers Program.

“Sec. 1007. State educational agency capacity for family engagement activi-  
 ties.”.

5 **SEC. 6. STATE PLANS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1111(d) (20 U.S.C.  
 7 6311(d)) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(d) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—Each State plan shall  
 9 include a plan for strengthening family engagement in  
 10 education. Each such plan shall, at a minimum, include—

11 “(1) a description of the State’s criteria and  
 12 schedule for review and approval of local educational  
 13 agency engagement policies and practices pursuant  
 14 to sections 1112(e)(3) and 1118(i);

15 “(2) a description of the State’s system and  
 16 process for assessing local educational agency imple-  
 17 mentation of section 1118 responsibilities;

18 “(3) a description of the State’s criteria for  
 19 identifying local educational agencies that would  
 20 benefit from training and support related to family  
 21 engagement in education;

22 “(4) a description of the State’s statewide sys-  
 23 tem of technical assistance and support for local

1 educational agencies and schools on family engage-  
2 ment in education;

3 “(5) an assurance that the State will refer to  
4 Statewide Family Engagement Centers those local  
5 educational agencies that would benefit from train-  
6 ing and support related to family engagement in  
7 education;

8 “(6) a plan for using funds received under sec-  
9 tion 1005;

10 “(7) a description of the relationship between  
11 the State educational agency and Statewide and  
12 Local Family Engagement Centers, parent training  
13 and information centers, and community parent re-  
14 source centers in the State established under sec-  
15 tions 671 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabil-  
16 ities Education Act; and

17 “(8) a plan for establishing a State Family En-  
18 gagement Coordinating Council or, if a similar entity  
19 exists, a description of the composition and activities  
20 of such similar entity.”.

21 (b) REPORTS.—

22 (1) ANNUAL STATE REPORT.—Section  
23 1111(h)(4) (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(4)) is amended—

24 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking  
25 “and” after the semicolon;

1 (B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the  
2 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;  
3 and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(H) the number of schools and the name  
6 of each school that would benefit from training  
7 and support related to family engagement in  
8 education, the reason why such school was so  
9 identified, and the measures taken to address  
10 the need for training and support; and

11 “(I) information on the State educational  
12 agency’s family engagement in education pro-  
13 grams and activities.”.

14 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1111(j)  
15 (20 U.S.C. 6311(j)) is amended by inserting “the  
16 development and implementation of policies and pro-  
17 cedures for family engagement in education,” after  
18 “reliable,”.

19 **SEC. 7. LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLANS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1112(b)(1)(P) (20 U.S.C.  
21 6312(b)(1)(P)) is amended to read as follows:

22 “(P) a description of the strategy the local  
23 educational agency will use to implement and  
24 assess family engagement in education under  
25 section 1118;”.

1 (b) ENGAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING PLANS.—Section  
2 1112(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6312(b)(1)) is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (Q) as sub-  
4 paragraph (S);

5 (2) in subparagraph (P), by striking “and”  
6 after the semicolon; and

7 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (P) the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 “(Q) a description of how the local edu-  
10 cational agency will engage families in the de-  
11 velopment, implementation, and assessment of  
12 local educational agency plans;

13 “(R) a description of how the local edu-  
14 cation agency will improve teacher and principal  
15 knowledge and skills in effectively engaging par-  
16 ents in their children’s education; and”.

17 **SEC. 8. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION POLICY.**

18 (a) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEVELOPMENT  
19 OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES.—Section 1118 (20 U.S.C.  
20 6318) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (h)  
22 as subsections (b) through (i), respectively; and

23 (2) by inserting before subsection (b), as red-  
24 igned by paragraph (1), the following:

1       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency  
2 and each school receiving funds under this part shall de-  
3 velop policies and practices for family engagement in edu-  
4 cation that meet the following principles and standards for  
5 family-school partnerships:

6           “(1) Welcome all families to be active partici-  
7 pants in the life of the school, so that they feel val-  
8 ued, connected to each other and to school staff and  
9 to what students are learning in class.

10          “(2) Communicate effectively by ensuring reg-  
11 ular two-way, meaningful communication between  
12 family members and local educational agency and  
13 school staff in a manner, language, and with tech-  
14 nology that family members can understand and ac-  
15 cess.

16          “(3) Support student success by fostering con-  
17 tinuous collaboration between family members and  
18 local educational agency and school staff to support  
19 student learning and healthy development at school  
20 and at home.

21          “(4) Speak up for every child and empower  
22 family members to be advocates for all students  
23 within the school.

1           “(5) Ensure that family members, local edu-  
2           cational agencies, and school staff are equal partners  
3           in family engagement in education decisionmaking.

4           “(6) Collaborate with community organizations  
5           and groups to turn the school into a hub of commu-  
6           nity life.

7           “(7) Create a continuum of family engagement  
8           in education in student learning and development  
9           from birth to young adulthood.

10           “(8) Train and support superintendents, prin-  
11           cipals, and teachers to fully engage families in the  
12           education of their children.”.

13           (b) WRITTEN POLICY.—Section 1118(b)(2), as reded-  
14           ignated by subsection (a), is amended—

15           (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(e)” and  
16           inserting “(f)”;

17           (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and”  
18           after the semicolon;

19           (3) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period  
20           at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

21           (4) by adding at the end the following:

22           “(G) participate in evaluations of the effec-  
23           tiveness of family engagement in education  
24           strategies and policies; and

1           “(H) participate in developing rec-  
2           ommendations for creating a positive school cli-  
3           mate and safe and healthy schools.”.

4           (c) RESERVATION.—Section 1118(b)(3)(A), as reded-  
5           ignated by subsection (a), is amended to read as follows:

6           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational  
7           agency shall reserve not less than 2 percent of  
8           its allocation under subpart 2 to carry out this  
9           section.”.

10          (d) RESERVED FUNDS.—Section 1118(b)(3), as re-  
11          designated by subsection (a), is amended—

12           (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and  
13           (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

14           (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-  
15          lowing:

16           “(B) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds reserved  
17           under subparagraph (A) may be used for pur-  
18           poses including the following:

19           “(i) Increasing capacity through es-  
20           tablishment of a dedicated office or dedi-  
21           cated personnel within the local edu-  
22           cational agency or at the school level for  
23           family engagement in education.

24           “(ii) Supporting schools and nonprofit  
25           organizations in providing professional de-

1           velopment on family engagement in edu-  
2           cation for school staff, parent leadership  
3           training, family literacy and numeracy pro-  
4           grams, home visitation programs, family  
5           volunteerism programs, and other innova-  
6           tive programs that meaningfully engage  
7           families.

8           “(iii) Developing and implementing  
9           local educational agency family engage-  
10          ment in education data-collection systems  
11          and indicators.

12          “(iv) Assessing and providing rec-  
13          ommendations on school family engage-  
14          ment in education policies, practices, and  
15          use of funds.

16          “(v) Providing technical assistance  
17          and training to schools on the implementa-  
18          tion and assessment of family engagement  
19          in education policies and practices.

20          “(vi) Providing additional support to  
21          schools that have been identified for im-  
22          provement under section 1116(b) to assist  
23          in their implementation of family engage-  
24          ment in education, including the hiring

1 and maintenance of family engagement co-  
2 ordinators.

3 “(vii) Partnering with Local Family  
4 Engagement Centers or community-based  
5 organizations to identify community re-  
6 sources, services, and supports to remove  
7 economic obstacles to family engagement  
8 in education by meeting families’ needs.

9 “(viii) Supporting schools and eligible  
10 entities in the development of early child-  
11 hood programs that promote family en-  
12 gagement in education and school readi-  
13 ness.

14 “(ix) Establishing and supporting an  
15 advisory group comprised of families, edu-  
16 cators, and nonprofit organizations to de-  
17 velop recommendations to strengthen fam-  
18 ily engagement in education from birth to  
19 young adulthood.

20 “(x) Assisting schools in the develop-  
21 ment, implementation, and assessment of  
22 family engagement in education plans.

23 “(xi) Monitoring and evaluating the  
24 family engagement in education policies  
25 and practices funded under this section.

1                   “(xii) Partnering with Local Family  
2                   Engagement Centers or Statewide Family  
3                   Engagement Centers to assist the local  
4                   educational agency and participating  
5                   schools in the implementation of this sec-  
6                   tion.

7                   “(xiii) Supporting other activities ap-  
8                   proved in the local education agency’s plan  
9                   for improving family engagement.”.

10           (e) SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY.—  
11 Section 1118(c)(1), as redesignated by subsection (a), is  
12 amended in the first sentence by striking “(c) through (f)”  
13 and inserting “(d) through (g)”.

14           (f) SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH STUDENT  
15 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.—Section 1118(e), as redesi-  
16 gnated by subsection (a), is amended—

17                   (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
18                   striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection  
19                   (c)”;

20                   (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the  
21                   following:

22                           “(1) describe the school’s responsibility to—

23                                   “(A) provide high-quality curriculum and  
24                                   instruction in a supportive and effective learn-  
25                                   ing environment that enables the children

1 served under this part to meet the State’s stu-  
2 dent academic achievement standards, and the  
3 ways in which each parent will support their  
4 children’s learning, such as—

5 “(i) monitoring attendance and home-  
6 work completion;

7 “(ii) volunteering in their child’s  
8 classroom or school; and

9 “(iii) participating, as appropriate, in  
10 decisions relating to the education of their  
11 children and positive use of extracurricular  
12 time; and

13 “(B) engage family members in the devel-  
14 opment of recommendations for student attend-  
15 ance, expectations, behavior, and school safety,  
16 including the development of reasonable dis-  
17 ciplinary policies and behavioral interventions,  
18 such as the implementation of school-wide posi-  
19 tive behavior interventions and supports and  
20 the phase-out of out-of-school suspension and  
21 expulsion; and”.

1 **SEC. 9. PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS FOR**  
2 **CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO ARE NE-**  
3 **GLECTED, DELINQUENT, OR AT RISK.**

4 (a) STATE PLAN AND STATE AGENCY APPLICA-  
5 TIONS.—Section 1414 (20 U.S.C. 6434) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
8 “and” after the semicolon;

9 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as  
10 subparagraph (D); and

11 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)  
12 the following:

13 “(C) that contains an assurance that each  
14 child or youth serviced by the program will have  
15 a transition plan developed in partnership with  
16 families and aftercare providers that will place  
17 the child or youth on a path to career and col-  
18 lege readiness; and”;

19 (2) in subsection (c)—

20 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (15)  
21 through (19) as paragraphs (17) through (21),  
22 respectively; and

23 (B) by inserting after paragraph (14) the  
24 following:

1           “(15) describes how the State agency will im-  
2           plement family engagement in education policies and  
3           practices that align with section 1118;

4           “(16) includes an assurance that the State  
5           agency will establish, for each child or youth served  
6           under this subpart, an educational services and tran-  
7           sition plan that is developed in consultation with the  
8           child or youth, family members of the child or youth,  
9           and the local educational agency or alternative edu-  
10          cation program that will receive the child or youth  
11          following their period of service under this sub-  
12          part;”.

13          (b) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY APPLICATIONS.—  
14          Section 1423 (20 U.S.C. 6453) is amended—

15                 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through  
16                 (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;  
17                 and

18                 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
19                 lowing:

20                         “(9) a description of how schools will implement  
21                         family engagement in education policies and prac-  
22                         tices that align with the provisions of section 1118;

23                         “(10) an assurance that the local educational  
24                         agency will establish for each child or youth served  
25                         under this subpart an educational services plan that

1 is developed in consultation with the child or youth,  
2 family members of the child or youth, and the local  
3 educational agency or alternative education program  
4 receiving the child or youth following their period of  
5 service under this subpart;”.

6 (c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR CORRECTIONAL  
7 FACILITIES RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION.—  
8 Section 1425 (20 U.S.C. 6455) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (10), by striking “and” after  
10 the semicolon;

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
12 graph (11) and inserting a semicolon; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(12) prepare an educational services and tran-  
15 sition plan for each child or youth served by the pro-  
16 gram, in partnership with families and aftercare pro-  
17 viders, consistent with section 1414(a)(1)(C); and

18 “(13) establish for each child or youth residing  
19 in the facility and serviced by this subpart an edu-  
20 cational services and transition plan that is devel-  
21 oped in consultation with the child or youth, family  
22 members of the child or youth, and the local edu-  
23 cational agency or alternative education program re-  
24 ceiving the child or youth following their period of  
25 service under this subpart.”.

1 **SEC. 10. HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS.**

2 (a) STATE APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Section  
3 2112(b) (20 U.S.C. 6612(b)) is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following:

5 “(13) A description of how the State edu-  
6 cational agency will improve teacher and principal  
7 knowledge and skill in effectively engaging families  
8 in their children’s education.”.

9 (b) STATE ACTIVITIES.—Section 2113(c) (20 U.S.C.  
10 6613(c)) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through  
12 (18) as paragraphs (13) through (19), respectively;  
13 and

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph (11) the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(12) Training of teachers and principals on  
17 how to effectively engage families in their children’s  
18 education.”.

19 **SEC. 11. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) HEADING.—The heading for subpart 16 of part  
21 D of title V is amended to read as follows:

22 **“Subpart 16—Family Engagement in Education**  
23 **Programs”.**

24 (b) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—Section 5561 (20  
25 U.S.C. 7273) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 5561. PURPOSES.**

2 “The purposes of this subpart are the following:

3 “(1) To provide financial support to nonprofit  
4 organizations to build the capacity of and provide  
5 technical assistance and training to States and local  
6 educational agencies in the implementation and en-  
7 hancement of successful systemic and effective fam-  
8 ily engagement policies, programs, and activities  
9 that lead to improvements in student development  
10 and academic achievement.

11 “(2) To assist State educational agencies, local  
12 educational agencies, and community-based organi-  
13 zations in strengthening partnerships among parents  
14 (including parents of children under the age of 6),  
15 teachers, principals, administrators, and other school  
16 personnel in meeting the educational needs of chil-  
17 dren.

18 “(3) To support State educational agencies and  
19 local educational agencies in developing and  
20 strengthening the relationship between parents and  
21 their children’s school in order to further the devel-  
22 opmental progress of children.

23 “(4) To coordinate activities funded under this  
24 subpart with engagement in education initiatives  
25 funded under section 1118 and other provisions of  
26 this Act.

1           “(5) To assist the Secretary, State educational  
2           agencies, and local educational agencies in the co-  
3           ordination and integration of Federal, State, and  
4           local services and programs to engage families in  
5           education.”.

6           (c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Section 5562 (20 U.S.C.  
7           7273a) is amended to read as follows:

8           **“SEC. 5562. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

9           “(a) STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTERS.—  
10          The Secretary is authorized to award grants for each fiscal  
11          year to statewide nonprofit organizations (and consortia  
12          of such organizations and State educational agencies), to  
13          establish Statewide Family Engagement Centers that pro-  
14          vide comprehensive training, technical assistance, and ca-  
15          pacity building to State educational agencies, local edu-  
16          cational agencies, schools identified by State educational  
17          agencies and local educational agencies, organizations that  
18          support family-school partnerships (such as parent-teach-  
19          er associations and Parents as Teachers organizations),  
20          and other organizations that carry out parent education  
21          and family engagement in education programs.

22          “(b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding  
23          grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent  
24          practicable, ensure that a grant is—

1           “(1) awarded for a Statewide Family Engage-  
2           ment Center in each State and outlying area; and

3           “(2) in an amount of not less than \$500,000.”.

4           (d) APPLICATIONS.—Section 5563 (20 U.S.C.  
5 7273b) is amended to read as follows:

6           **“SEC. 5563. APPLICATIONS.**

7           “(a) SUBMISSIONS.—Each statewide nonprofit orga-  
8           nization, or a consortium of such an organization and a  
9           State educational agency, that desires a grant under sec-  
10          tion 5562 shall submit an application to the Secretary at  
11          such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such in-  
12          formation as the Secretary may require.

13          “(b) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under  
14          paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

15                 “(1) A description of the applicant’s approach  
16                 to family engagement in education, including the use  
17                 of strength-based strategies.

18                 “(2) A description of the applicant’s plan for  
19                 building a statewide infrastructure for family en-  
20                 gagement in education, that includes—

21                         “(A) management capacity and govern-  
22                         ance;

23                         “(B) statewide leadership;

24                         “(C) systemic services for family engage-  
25                         ment in education;

1           “(D) capacity building for State edu-  
2           cational agencies, local educational agencies,  
3           and schools;

4           “(E) alignment with title I; and

5           “(F) learning and improvement.

6           “(3) A description of the applicant’s experience  
7           in providing training, information, and support to  
8           State educational agencies, local educational agen-  
9           cies, schools, and nonprofit organizations on family  
10          engagement in education polices and practices that  
11          are effective for low-income parents and families,  
12          English language learners, minorities, parents of  
13          students with disabilities, parents of homeless stu-  
14          dents, foster parents and students, and parents of  
15          migrant students.

16          “(4) An assurance that the applicant will—

17               “(A) be—

18                       “(i) governed by a board of directors,  
19                       the membership of which includes parents  
20                       of school-aged children; or

21                       “(ii) an organization or consortium  
22                       that represents the interests of parents;

23               “(B) establish a special advisory com-  
24               mittee, the membership of which includes—

1           “(i) parents of children from birth  
2 through young adulthood, who shall con-  
3 stitute a majority of the members of the  
4 special advisory committee;

5           “(ii) representatives of the State par-  
6 ent teacher association;

7           “(iii) representatives of education pro-  
8 fessionals with expertise in improving serv-  
9 ices for disadvantaged children;

10          “(iv) representatives of local elemen-  
11 tary schools and secondary schools, includ-  
12 ing students, disadvantaged youth, and  
13 representatives from local youth organiza-  
14 tions; and

15          “(v) representatives of State edu-  
16 cational agencies and local educational  
17 agencies;

18          “(C) use not less than 65 percent of the  
19 funds received under this subpart in each fiscal  
20 year to serve local educational agencies, schools,  
21 and community-based organizations that serve  
22 high concentrations of low-income families and  
23 disadvantaged children and youth, including  
24 English language learners, minorities, parents  
25 of students with disabilities, parents of home-

1 less students, foster parents and students, and  
2 parents of migrant students;

3 “(D) operate a center of sufficient size,  
4 scope, and quality to ensure that the center is  
5 adequate to serve the State educational agen-  
6 cies, local educational agencies, and community-  
7 based organizations;

8 “(E) serve urban, suburban, and rural  
9 local educational agencies and schools;

10 “(F) work with—

11 “(i) State educational agencies and  
12 local educational agencies and schools;

13 “(ii) other Statewide Family Engage-  
14 ment Centers assisted under this subpart;

15 “(iii) Local Family Engagement Cen-  
16 ters assisted under section 1006;

17 “(iv) parent training and information  
18 centers and community parent resource  
19 centers assisted under sections 671 and  
20 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities  
21 Education Act;

22 “(v) clearinghouses; and

23 “(vi) other organizations and agen-  
24 cies;

1           “(G) use not less than 30 percent of the  
2 funds received under this section in each fiscal  
3 year to establish or expand technical assistance  
4 for evidence-based early childhood parent edu-  
5 cation programs;

6           “(H) provide assistance to State edu-  
7 cational agencies and local educational agencies  
8 and community-based organizations that sup-  
9 port family members in areas such as assist-  
10 ance in understanding State and local stand-  
11 ards and measures of student and school aca-  
12 demic achievement and strategies for sup-  
13 porting school academic achievement; and

14           “(I) work with State educational agencies,  
15 local educational agencies, and schools to deter-  
16 mine parental needs and the best means for de-  
17 livery of services to address such needs.”.

18       (e) USES OF FUNDS.—Section 5564 (20 U.S.C.  
19 7273c) is amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 5564. USES OF FUNDS.**

21       “Grantees shall use grant funds received under sec-  
22 tion 5562 to provide training, technical assistance, and ca-  
23 pacity building to State educational agencies, local edu-  
24 cational agencies, and organizations that support family-

1 school partnerships, to enable those agencies and organi-  
2 zations—

3           “(1) to assist parents in participating effectively  
4           in their children’s education and to help their chil-  
5           dren meet State and local standards, such as assist-  
6           ing parents—

7                   “(A) to engage in activities that will im-  
8                   prove student academic achievement, including  
9                   understanding how they can support learning in  
10                  the classroom with activities at home and in  
11                  afterschool and extracurricular programs;

12                  “(B) to communicate effectively with their  
13                  children, teachers, principals, counselors, ad-  
14                  ministrators, and other school personnel;

15                  “(C) to become active participants in the  
16                  development, implementation, and review of  
17                  school-parent compacts, family engagement in  
18                  education policies, and school planning and im-  
19                  provement;

20                  “(D) to participate in the design and pro-  
21                  vision of assistance to students who are not  
22                  making adequate academic progress;

23                  “(E) to participate in State and local deci-  
24                  sionmaking;

25                  “(F) to train other parents; and

1           “(G) to help the parents learn and use  
2           technology applied in their children’s education;

3           “(2) to develop and implement, in partnership  
4           with the State educational agency, a statewide fam-  
5           ily engagement in education policy and systemic ini-  
6           tiatives that will provide for a continuum of services  
7           to remove barriers for family engagement in edu-  
8           cation and support school reform efforts; and

9           “(3) to develop, implement, and assess family  
10          engagement in education policies and plans under  
11          sections 1112 and 1118.”.

12          (f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 5565 (20  
13 U.S.C. 7273d) is amended to read as follows:

14          **“SEC. 5565. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

15          “(a) MATCHING FUNDS FOR GRANT RENEWAL.—  
16          For each fiscal year after the first fiscal year for which  
17          an organization or consortium receives assistance under  
18          this subpart, the organization or consortium shall dem-  
19          onstrate in the application that a portion of the services  
20          provided by the organization or consortium is supported  
21          through non-Federal contributions, which may be in cash  
22          or in-kind.

23          “(b) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—Each organi-  
24          zation or consortium receiving assistance under this sub-  
25          part shall submit to the Secretary, on an annual basis,

1 information on the activities it has carried out using grant  
2 funds received under section 5562, including reporting on  
3 metrics developed under section 5567.

4 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
5 reserve not more than 5 percent of the funds appropriated  
6 to carry out this subpart to provide technical assistance,  
7 by grant or contract, for the establishment, development,  
8 and coordination of Statewide Family Engagement Cen-  
9 ters, including their establishment of statewide infrastruc-  
10 tures for family engagement in education.

11 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-  
12 part shall be construed to prohibit a Statewide Family En-  
13 gagement Center from—

14 “(1) having its employees or agents meet with  
15 a parent at a site that is not on school grounds; or

16 “(2) working with another agency that serves  
17 children.

18 “(e) PARENTAL RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any  
19 other provision of this subpart—

20 “(1) no person (including a parent who edu-  
21 cates a child at home, a public school parent, or a  
22 private school parent) shall be required to partici-  
23 pate in any program of parent education or develop-  
24 mental screening under this subpart; and



1 2011, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences,  
2 after consultation with the advisory committee established  
3 under subsection (b), shall develop recommended metrics  
4 on family engagement in education for State educational  
5 agencies and local educational agencies that receive funds  
6 under section 1118 and provide recommendations on the  
7 integration of metrics into State accountability and longi-  
8 tudinal data systems.

9 “(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Secretary shall  
10 appoint an advisory committee, including researchers and  
11 representatives from national nonprofit organizations with  
12 expertise in family engagement in education, to make  
13 data-driven recommendations regarding metrics required  
14 under subsection (a).

15 “(c) RESEARCH FOR EFFECTIVE FAMILY ENGAGE-  
16 MENT IN EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not  
17 more than 5 percent of funds appropriated to carry out  
18 this subpart to conduct research on effective family en-  
19 gagement in education, including through awarding grants  
20 and entering into contracts with eligible entities. Such re-  
21 search may include—

22 “(1) exploratory research to discover the under-  
23 lying processes or components of family engagement  
24 programs that are associated with improved edu-  
25 cation outcomes for students;

1 “(2) research to—

2 “(A) develop culturally sensitive strategies  
3 or programs for improving family engagement  
4 in education; and

5 “(B) rigorously evaluate the impact of  
6 such strategies or programs on students’ edu-  
7 cation outcomes; and

8 “(3) research to—

9 “(A) develop professional development pro-  
10 grams intended to enable school personnel to  
11 support parental involvement in education; and

12 “(B) rigorously evaluate the impact of  
13 such programs on students’ education out-  
14 comes.”.

15 **SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.**

16 Section 9101 (20 U.S.C. 7801) is amended—

17 (1) by striking paragraph (32);

18 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (20) through  
19 (31) as paragraphs (21) through (32), respectively;

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (19) the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 “(20) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION.—

23 The term ‘family engagement in education’ means a  
24 shared responsibility—

1           “(A) of families and schools for student  
2           success, in which schools and community-based  
3           organizations are committed to reaching out to  
4           engage families in meaningful ways and families  
5           are committed to actively supporting their chil-  
6           dren’s learning and development; and

7           “(B) that is continuous from birth through  
8           young adulthood and reinforces learning that  
9           takes place in the home, school, and commu-  
10          nity.”; and

11          (4) by adding at the end the following:

12          “(44) TRIBALLY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS.—The  
13          term ‘tribally controlled schools’ means schools ad-  
14          ministered by Indian tribes or their delegates pursu-  
15          ant to the Indian Self-Determination and Education  
16          Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).”.

17 **SEC. 13. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

18          The Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended by  
19          striking—

20                 (1) “parental involvement” and “parent involve-  
21                 ment” each place the terms appear and inserting  
22                 “family engagement”;

23                 (2) “involvement of parents” each place the  
24                 term appears and inserting “engagement of fami-  
25                 lies”;

1           (3) “parental information and resource center”  
 2 each place the term appears and inserting “State-  
 3 wide Family Engagement Center”;

4           (4) “parental information and resource centers”  
 5 each place the term appears and inserting “State-  
 6 wide Family Engagement Centers”; and

7           (5) “involve parents” each place the term ap-  
 8 pears and inserting “engage families”.

9 **SEC. 14. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY**  
 10 **AND REPORT.**

11 (a) STUDY.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of  
 13 the United States shall conduct a study, and make  
 14 findings and recommendations relating to compli-  
 15 ance with, and use of funds made available for, sec-  
 16 tion 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
 17 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6318), including mat-  
 18 ters specified in paragraph (2).

19           (2) INCLUSIONS.—The study shall include a re-  
 20 view and analysis of—

21           (A) the use of funds reserved by local edu-  
 22 cational agencies for family engagement under  
 23 such section 1118;

24           (B) the innovative, effective, replicable, or  
 25 model family engagement in education policies,

1 practices, and uses of funds of State edu-  
2 cational agencies and local educational agencies  
3 determined by the Secretary of Education to be  
4 in alignment with section 1118;

5 (C) any barriers to State educational agen-  
6 cies and local educational agencies in imple-  
7 menting section 1118;

8 (D) any barriers to Indian tribes and orga-  
9 nizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and  
10 Alaska Native organizations in developing, im-  
11 plementing, and assessing family engagement in  
12 education policies and practices; and

13 (E) the use of data collection and report-  
14 ing and outcome and assessment systems of  
15 State educational agencies and local educational  
16 agencies to determine the extent to which fam-  
17 ily engagement in education is implemented as  
18 described in section 1118.

19 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
21 of the United States shall prepare and submit to the Com-  
22 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the  
23 Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the  
24 House of Representatives a report containing the findings

1 and recommendations resulting from the study conducted  
2 under this section.

3 **SEC. 15. FEDERAL COORDINATION OF FAMILY ENGAGE-**  
4 **MENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMMING.**

5 (a) STAFFING.—Not later than 6 months after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, there shall be established  
7 in the Department of Education dedicated staff, including  
8 a Director, for family and community engagement.

9 (b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Director shall include  
10 the following:

11 (1) Articulating a national vision of family en-  
12 gagement in education.

13 (2) Coordinating and integrating activities re-  
14 lated to family engagement strategies, services, and  
15 programs within the Department and across Federal  
16 agencies.

17 (3) Providing guidance to Department offices  
18 and units on the administration of family engage-  
19 ment in education programs, community school pro-  
20 grams, and other related initiatives, such as Promise  
21 Neighborhoods.

22 (4) Ensuring consistency in family engagement  
23 in education policies and programs within the De-  
24 partment.

1           (5) Ensuring consistency in family engagement  
2           in education policies and programs with family en-  
3           gagement policies and practices of the programs and  
4           activities of other Federal agencies.

5           (6) Administering the Statewide Family En-  
6           gagement Centers under subpart 16 of part D of  
7           title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
8           Act of 1965 and the Full Service Community  
9           Schools program.

10          (7) Developing, in consultation with the public  
11          through an invitation for public comment in the  
12          Federal Register, a plan for innovation, research,  
13          and evaluation of family engagement in education,  
14          including impact, implementation, and replication  
15          studies.

16          (8) Conducting, by arrangement with the De-  
17          partment's Institute of Education Sciences, by con-  
18          tract, or by competition, innovation, research and  
19          evaluation on family engagement in education con-  
20          sistent with the requirement of section 5567(c) of  
21          the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
22          1965.

23          (9) Disseminating effective and innovative prac-  
24          tices on family engagement to State educational  
25          agencies, Statewide Family Engagement Centers

1 and Local Family Engagement Centers, parent  
2 training and information centers and community  
3 parent resource centers assisted under sections 671  
4 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-  
5 cation Act, administrators of title I of the Elemen-  
6 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
7 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and others.

8 (10) Coordinating innovation, research, train-  
9 ing, and technical assistance activities among State-  
10 wide Family Engagement Centers, Local Family En-  
11 gagement Centers, and regional educational labora-  
12 tories.

13 (11) Identifying opportunities for family en-  
14 gagement in education collaboration and resource  
15 sharing among State educational agencies, local edu-  
16 cational agencies, and organizations that support  
17 family-school partnerships.

18 (12) Preparing a biennial report to Congress on  
19 family engagement in education, including a sum-  
20 mary of activities, performance, and outcomes under  
21 sections 1006, 1008, 1112, and 1118, and subpart  
22 16 of part D of title V of the Elementary and Sec-  
23 ondary Education Act of 1965.

24 (13) Publishing State educational agency family  
25 engagement in education plans and reports prepared

1 as required by section 1111 of the Elementary and  
2 Secondary Education Act of 1965 on the website of  
3 the Department.

4 (14) Carrying out such other duties as may be  
5 designated by the Secretary.

6 (c) FEDERAL DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY COOPERA-  
7 TION.—Each department or agency of the Federal Gov-  
8 ernment providing programs related to family and commu-  
9 nity engagement in education shall—

10 (1) cooperate with the efforts of the Director  
11 described in subsection (a);

12 (2) provide such assistance, statistics, studies,  
13 reports, information, and advice as the Director may  
14 request, to the extent permitted by law;

15 (3) adjust department or agency staff job de-  
16 scriptions to support collaboration and implementa-  
17 tion of the vision and strategy; and

18 (4) assign department or agency liaisons to the  
19 office to oversee and implement interagency coordi-  
20 nation.

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