

Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged Act (Keeping PACE Act; S. 1302)

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. States will use the funds to provide competitive subgrants to:

- LEAs receiving Title I funding so they can hire Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators
- Community based organizations so they can support students, their schools, and their families
- Consortia consisting of a school, school district, mayor, and one or more non-profit or for-profit community partners in order 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. 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.

What will Community Based Organizations do?

Community based organizations will assess the needs of students and their families and then link them with support services available in the community. For example, students could be connected to mentors, after-school programs and health services available in the community, and parents could be connected to job training and classes in English as a Second Language.

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.

Why will the Keeping PACE Act work?

Research shows that students are more likely to achieve in school when they are supported by parents and the community. The Keeping PACE Act recognizes the need to strengthen parent engagement in education, as well as the need to build stronger connections between schools and communities. It isn't just about more programs. It's about leveraging existing resources to help students succeed in the classroom.

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.

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