

To: The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education's Working Group 4

Attention: Moderator Joy Schaefer

From: Ayize Sabater (shsab1@morgan.edu)

Re: Family Engagement Recommendation

The Commission's recognition of the critical role that family's play in the success of children's learning is commendable. However, it appears that much is assumed around supporting families, in regards to the family liaison or the family engagement work. This recommendation calls for innovative, intentional and intensive family support, to be made available to third party entities &/or to school districts that apply to a request for proposal (RFP) process, for engaging families as full partners in the learning process by providing funding, that does not supplant existing family support allocations, and that is no less than 5% of the per pupil funding and 5% of the categorical funding for the expressed purpose of, but not limited to, the following:

1. to train families how to better monitor their pupil's learning;
2. to train families how to better monitor their school's academic performance;
3. to train families how to better monitor their school's spending;
4. to train families how to better utilize school and community wrap-around services; and,
5. to provide pre/post evaluations on how family engagement influences the learning process for that respective school year.

Providing dedicated intensive family support funding, which allows for potential third party entities to apply, introduces competition and innovation into the educational process.

Examples:

See the work of the **National Network of Partnership Schools** (<http://nnps.jhucosos.com/>)

see the work of the **Christopher House's** intensive family support model (see 8/27/18 Washington Post page: B2 article by Jackie Mader)