



319 S 17th St. Suite 212
Omaha, NE 68102

(402) 597-3100
www.voicesforchildren.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Beverly, Jr., MBA
President

Jill Batter, Esq.
Vice President

Tim Hron, MA, LIMHP
Secretary

Daniel Gutman, J.D.
Christina Kahler
Keegan Korf
Shawntal Mallory, J.D.
Emily Mwaja
Juan Padilla
Patty Pansing Brooks
Kelley Peterson
Kate Noble Weitz

Juliet Summers, J.D.
Executive Director

February 27, 2024

To: Chairperson Murman and Members of the Education Committee

From: Katie Nungesser, Policy Coordinator for Voices for Children in Nebraska

RE: Support of LB 1013, Create the Family Engagement Grant Program for certain schools

Thank you chairperson Murman and members of the Education Committee. My name is Katie Nungesser and I am representing Voices for Children in Nebraska in support of LB 1013. This initiative aims to foster a collaborative and supportive educational environment by actively involving Nebraska parents in their children's learning journey. The Family Engagement Grant Program outlined in LB 1013 addresses various aspects to enhance family engagement, would support youth development.

Engaging parents as volunteers not only strengthens the connection between schools and families but also provides an additional layer of support for students. By offering tutoring sessions to parents, we empower them with the tools and knowledge to actively participate in their children's education.

Secondly, the communication aspect is pivotal in ensuring that parents are well-informed about their role as school volunteers. Clear and effective communication channels help in building a sense of community within the school, promoting transparency, and encouraging more parents to actively engage in school-related activities.

The training sessions on ways to enhance the level of family engagement within the school play a vital role in equipping parents with the necessary skills to contribute meaningfully to their child's educational experience. These training programs can cover a range of topics, from effective communication strategies to understanding the curriculum, creating a more inclusive and supportive educational environment.

Additionally, providing materials for parents and students to work on together at home is an excellent strategy to extend learning beyond the classroom. This not only strengthens the bond between parents and their children but also reinforces the importance of education as a joint effort between schools and families.

The proposed grant program's reporting requirements ensure accountability and transparency, allowing for a thorough assessment of the program's impact on families and students. Measurable outcomes will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the program and guide future improvements.

I urge the Education Committee to support LB 1013 and its vision for the Family Engagement Grant Program. This grant holds potential to transform the educational landscape by fostering stronger partnerships between schools and families. Such collaboration is pivotal in shaping well-rounded, engaged, and successful individuals.

Respectfully,

Katie Nungesser