



**Communities In Schools, Inc.  
Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged Act  
(Keeping PACE Act) (S. 1411/H.R. 3343)  
Brief Summary**

The Keeping Parents and Communities Engaged Act amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools, to provide needed supports and services to young people, and to ensure that schools are centers of communities. The Act establishes three new grant programs: Parent and Community Outreach and Coordination; Connecting Students to Community Resources and Comprehensive Supports; and Schools as Centers of Communities.

**The Keeping PACE Act will help reduce the dropout rate.** Community-based, comprehensive student services, including parental engagement, can make the difference between student success and failure. **If well-managed and implemented, community-based, comprehensive student services can dramatically reduce the risk of students dropping out of school.**

**The Keeping PACE Act will leverage federal dollars through three new grant programs.**

***1. Parent and Community Outreach Coordination (\$130 million)***

- **Creates grants to hire and maintain Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators.** The Act enables states to award grants to local education agencies receiving assistance under ESEA Title I, Part A to assist elementary and secondary schools in hiring Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators working directly with the principal, staff, teachers, students, and families. The Outreach Coordinators:
- Build critical partnerships between families, schools, and the community;
  - Create school environments in which families feel safe, welcome, and free to voice their opinions;
  - Cultivate parent leadership by providing parents with the tools and training necessary; and
  - Develop and maintain a database of families to support family engagement activities.
- In addition, they would leverage and coordinate existing community-based services designed to address the needs of children and families. Community-based, comprehensive student services are a cost-efficient and effective use of taxpayer funds because they use existing resources.

***2. Connecting Students to Community Resources and Comprehensive Supports (\$78 million)***

- **Creates grants to community-based organizations to better connect students to community resources.**
- The Act enables states to provide grants to community-based organizations, in consultation with schools, to facilitate the connection of community-based student support services with students and families in need. These may include health services, enrichment opportunities, recreation, mentors and tutors, employment services, and much more. The community-based organizations will conduct needs assessments and provide training and support for staff, teachers, and the Parent and Community Outreach Coordinators.

***3. Schools as Centers of Communities (\$52 million)***

- **Provides incentives to modernize and renovate existing schools as centers of community**
- An eligible entity that receives a subgrant under this section must provide 50 percent of the funds needed to redesign a school to be able to serve as a community center.

***National Technical Assistance, Training, and Effective Practices Collection and Dissemination***

The Keeping PACE Act will authorize the Secretary of Education to contract with an appropriate nonprofit organization to provide relevant technical assistance and training to grantees and sub-grantees and to establish a national clearinghouse of information on effective parent, family, and community engagement practices and programs for use by state and local education agencies, schools, and community-based organizations.