



Ensuring a Place at the Table for Every Family

What has the National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE) been up to over the last year?

We've been BUSY! And we couldn't have done it without YOU AND YOUR DUES! We accept NO government funding so we are beholden to no one except you, our members.

Public Policy – Legislation and Regulations | We've submitted and/or signed onto comments regarding:

Legislation

- US House of Representatives legislation to increase funding to Parent Information Centers (*passed the US House of Representatives, but not the US Senate*)
- Letter to US House of Representatives from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) expressing concern about the scapegoating of people with mental health disabilities in the debate concerning gun violence prevention

Regulations

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking of US Department of Education on Sexual Harassment under Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972 (*we opposed*)
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking of US Department of Education to extend OSEP and RSA Parent Center and National TA Center on Improving Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students with Disabilities funding (*we supported; the rule was approved*)
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking of US Department of Education to the Annual State Application under Part B of the IDEA, OMB Information Collection 1820-0030, and the State and Local Educational Agency Record and Reporting Requirements under Part B of the IDEA, OMB Information Collection 1820-0600 re: Equity in IDEA/Significant Disproportionality.
- Revisions to Early Intervention and Special Education Determinations Criteria and Processes by US Department of Education (*we supported in part and opposed in part*)

Non-Regulatory Guidance & Other Administrative Initiatives

- Draft Non-Regulatory Informational Document on State & Local Report Cards (*several of our recommendations were integrated into the document*)
- IES IDEA Implementation surveys (*several of our recommendations, including adding Parent Centers as a specific category in the survey, were integrated into the survey*)
- US ED OSERS blog on how best to provide technical assistance to states to improve post-secondary transition services to students and youth with disabilities, and how best to strengthen and expand coordination and collaboration with OSERS Parent Centers and

other relevant TA centers (*results pending*)

- Comments to US OSERS Assistant Secretary regarding proposed plans to revise and weaken the Least Restrictive Environment component of IDEA (*succeeded in stopping the plan in its tracks!*)
- Letter to Assistant Secretary, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, regarding need for SAMHSA to work closely with family organizations to select a new Branch Chief, and introducing her to National PLACE

Other Public Policy Issues.

- Signed onto an amicus curiae (“Friend of the Court”) brief in a lawsuit regarding the reduced parental and student rights in charter and voucher programs (*results pending*)

Collaborations | We are active members of the *Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)*, the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. We serve on the CCD Education, Health, and Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Support Task Forces. We helped shape CCD comments on LRE/inclusion, disproportionality, IDEA studies, access to health coverage and health care, and state determinations regarding early intervention and special education, among other topics.

We were approached by the *National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)* to share our resources on Endrew F. to support their efforts to get their members – State Directors of Special Education – to understand the importance and implications of Endrew F. for the IEP process and services to and outcomes for children and youth with disabilities.

We have partnered with members such as *The Advocacy Institute* and *the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health* on public policy initiatives. And we have provided family and professional development on *Serving on Groups that Make Decisions* and *Leading by Convening: The Partnership Way* to family organizations, state agencies, and others.

Education and Support to National PLACE Members | We planned and presented three webinars addressing the needs of our members, including:

- Developing & Implementing Effective Policy Campaigns and Materials (May 23)
- Effective Use of Social Media in Policy Advocacy (June 20)
- Securing Resources for Policy Advocacy (September 19)

We have also provided technical assistance to National PLACE members on lobbying, securing resources for policy advocacy, public policy campaigns, and parent leadership development.

Please renew your membership TODAY!

So National PLACE can continue to represent YOUR interests, and the interests of families and family-led organizations, at federal policy tables, and can continue to support YOU in your advocacy to ensure “the parent’s place at every table!”