

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SJM 17

**52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016**

**Tracking Number:** .203145.1

**Short Title:** School District Family Engagement Programs

**Sponsor(s):** Senators Linda M. Lopez and Pete Campos

**Analyst:** Christina McCorquodale

**Date:** February 13, 2016

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**Bill Summary:**

SJM 17 requests the Public Education Department (PED) and local schools to establish a family and community engagement program in school districts. The joint memorial requests that local school boards statewide collaborate with parents, teachers, administrators, and community partners to establish a family and community engagement program for each school in a school district. The program will provide regular and periodic programs throughout the school year that offer learning opportunities for families, school personnel, and community partners. The joint memorial requests that PED establish structures and positions with well-defined responsibilities that promote family and community engagement. The joint memorial also requests that families and communities working together with schools prepare and conduct an annual review of identified objectives and progress of the program to be available for all families.

**Fiscal Impact:**

SJM 17 does not include an appropriation.

**Substantive Issues:**

Legislative findings suggest engagement and support of families and community partners play an integral role in the academic success of children. Well-organized family and community engagement programs that result in collaborative decision-making processes will attract families and community participation in schools that improve children's learning.

The goals of family and community engagement programs include engaging and supporting families from diverse backgrounds; supporting families in developing skills that enhance their children's academic efforts; and building effective and consistent methods of communication between schools and families.

In 2013, the *Community School Act* was passed adding a new section to the *Public School Code* defining key components of a community school that include integrated services. A community school is both a place and set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus is on academics, health and social services, student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. Full-service community schools include three primary services: (1) extended day learning; (2) family support activities directed on providing economic relief; and (3) school-based health and school-linked health services.

**Related Bills:**

HB 298a *Child & Family Integrated Services Initiative*