

**EdVenture Group, Inc.**

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**State Served: WV**

Multiple studies show that a family's engagement in their child's education is critical in improving academic outcomes for their children. Students whose families and school staff work together to support learning earn higher grades and test scores, are more motivated, and are more likely to graduate and further their education. In addition, through authentic partnerships with parents, schools gain improved teacher morale, lower rates of teacher turnover, more support from families, higher student achievement, and a better reputation in the community.

Greater family engagement is needed in all regions of the state of West Virginia but not all schools have developed the capacity to meet that goal. As well, too few West Virginia families have exercised their ability to partner with schools to positively impact student achievement. We believe that the responsibility for building positive productive relationships between school, home, and the community rests primarily with the school staff, especially school and county leaders, and with the WVDE.

While many schools have exerted great effort to strengthen family-school partnerships, many school staff are continuing to use former family engagement strategies that do not address the needs of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century families. The proposed SEFC program grant would engage schools, families, and the community to transform family engagement across West Virginia based on current evidence-based practices in the field. Ensuring that parents and school staff understand that the responsibility for children's educational development is a collaborative enterprise is a key to school improvement and student success throughout the implementation process of the statewide family engagement center initiative in West Virginia.