

Influencing Policy: Increasing Professional and Family Involvement in the Policy-Making Process

What Does the Research Say?

Interdisciplinary research investigating political involvement reveals several important themes:

- 1) **Studies examining citizen contacts with government, including E-Government, demonstrate perceived needs to be the essential factor predicting engagement** (Bimber, 1999; Dimitrova & Chen, 2006; Jones, Greenberg, Kaufman, & Drew, 1977; Thomas & Melkers, 1999; Vedlitz, Dyer, & Durand, 1980)
- 2) **New media, including the use of the internet and other modern mediums of outreach and communication, have demonstrated mixed results in terms of effectiveness** (Bimber, 1999; Browning, 1996; Dahlberg, 2001; Delli Carpini & Williams, 2001; Polat, 2005; Prior, 2007; Zhang & Chia, 2006)
- 3) **Deliberative experiences, particularly those that occur and are sustained within social networks, are a crucial aspect of improving participation and engagement** (Coburn & Russell, 2008; Cross & Parker, 2004; Daly & Finnigan, 2010; Daly, Moolenaar, Bolivar, & Burke, 2010; Delli Carpini, Cook & Jacobs, 2004; Fixsen, Naom, Blase, Friedman, & Wallace, 2008; Gastil, Deess, & Weiser, 2002; McClurg, 2006; Penuel, Frank, & Krause, 2006; Penuel, Frank, & Krause, 2007; Penuel, Frank, & Riel, 2007; Penuel, Sussex, Korbak, & Hoadley, 2006; Smylie & Evans, 2006; Stoelinga, 2008; Zhang & Chia, 2006)

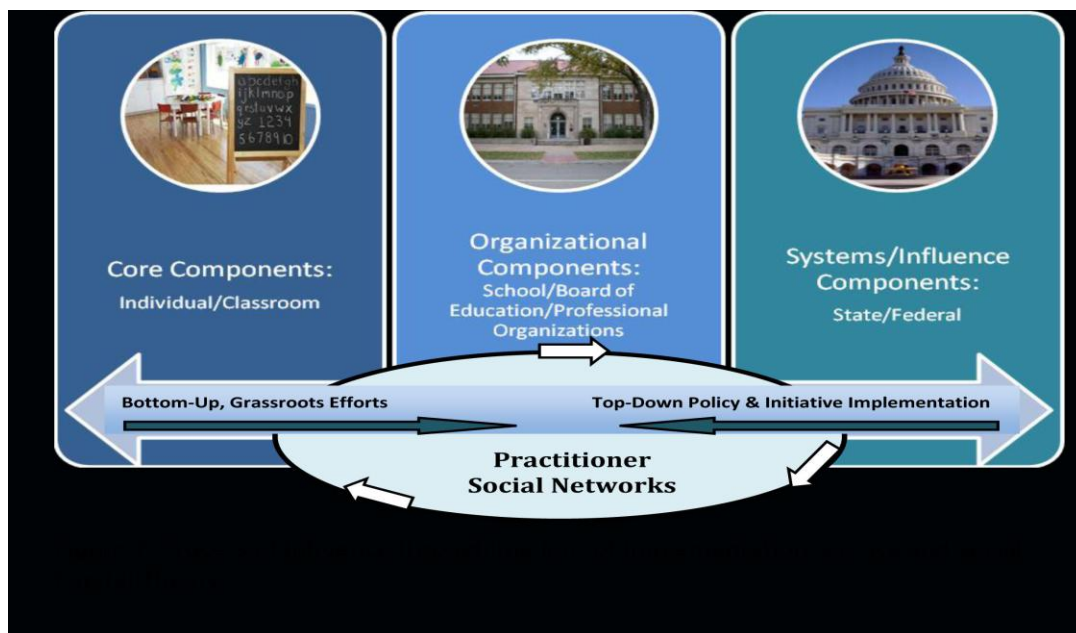


Diagram Credit: Ashley Lyons, 2012.

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