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SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2021 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

As in previous years, the Board has actively advocated policy changes through the state and federal legislative process by formulating a legislative agenda. The proposed 2021 State and Federal Legislative programs have been prepared by staff and are attached for the Board's review and approval. The development of both programs was initiated by the solicitation of proposals from School Board Members, the Superintendent of Schools, staff, school personnel, employee groups, municipal and county governments, and citizen groups. The proposed 2021 State Legislative Program and the 2021 Federal Legislative Program have been streamlined to include priority action items and policy items that provide direction to the Board's legislative team, which is comprised of staff and legislative consultants. New issues are highlighted with underscores within the documents.

COVID-19 struck this nation earlier this year resulting in schools being shuttered, and a dramatic state and national economic slowdown. As a result, education has changed dramatically. School districts were forced to pivot to online education nearly overnight, leading to a rise of e-learning, whereby teaching was undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. State budgets have been significantly impacted due to "stay at home" orders. As a result, school districts' budgets are expected to be reduced due to a precipitous drop in sales and corporate income tax revenue. States are estimating 2 to 30 percent budget deficits, all of which will fall heavily on school districts, especially those that are heavily reliant on state aid. Florida is anticipated to be one of the hardest hit states, due to its heavy reliance on travel and tourism, as a major economic driver. In fact, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research has projected a \$5.4 billion shortfall for the upcoming couple of fiscal years.

Additionally, the coronavirus is driving a steep and unprecedented increase in classroom costs. It is estimated that America's schools will need to spend \$245 billion more to provide remote learning, expand food service for a growing number of low-income students, and extend the school year to make up for lost instructional days. Meanwhile, administrators have dubbed the many months of learning students missed between March, when schools started shutting down, and this fall as the "COVID-19 Slump."

The recommended priorities are identified solutions or recommendations to address the increased cost of doing business during COVID-19 and critical issues currently facing the District, such as maintaining current per student funding at the 2019-2020 levels for

operations; continue to address equity in funding; waiving the sanctions with the accountability system for 2021 administration of the statewide assessments; recognizing Board governance over public schools; school readiness; the continuation of the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation and a myriad of methods to continue to attract and retain teachers; and continued funding of school safety measures which will remain a major topic of discussion during the foreseeable future at the state and federal levels.

The state legislative session is scheduled to commence on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, and is scheduled to conclude on Friday, April 30, 2021. Interim committee meetings have not been scheduled yet but may begin as early as January 2021. The proposed 2021 State Legislative Program is organized in three sections: Priorities; Additional Issues; and Policy Statements. The Priorities are a limited number of issues that staff and the Board's lobbying team will focus their efforts on achieving: Funding; Accountability and Assessment Reform; Governance; Capital Funding; School Security; Teacher/Personnel Shortage; and School Readiness. The draft program also includes additional issues and policy statements. The only must pass legislation however is the state's budget for 2021-2022.

At the federal level, the 117th Congress enters its first congressional session in January 2021. As the upcoming session approaches, the District will continue to urge Congress to invest in public education, pass another stimulus package to address the increased operational costs associated with responding to COVID-19, and fully fund the cost of implementing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) thus avoiding potentially damaging reductions in education funding and services.

The proposed 2021 Federal Legislative Program is comprised of ongoing issues including: Federal Education Resources; Elementary and Secondary Education Act; Early Childhood Education; Immigration Impact; School Nutrition; Medicaid Reimbursement; School Construction and Renovation; Student Privacy; Technology; Workforce Preparation; Health Care; Personnel; Student Safety; and Cybersecurity.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida:

1. adopt the proposed 2021 State and Federal Legislative programs; and
2. authorize the Superintendent to use District resources and to advocate for the best interest of the District on issues at the state and federal levels that may have fiscal, local control, and/or governance impact on Miami-Dade County Public Schools' operations, but does not have major policy implications, provided such issues are reported to the Board.

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

The Florida Legislature should establish a five-year strategic plan to restore, stabilize, and increase funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to achieve at least the national average in per pupil expenditures to provide the highest quality education and to enable all of our students to be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FUNDING:

Protect school district operational funding by mitigating any FTE enrollment declines experienced by districts and any impact of state budget shortfalls by fully funding districts based on the 2019-2020 fourth FTE calculation and minimally providing per student funding at 2020-2021 levels or \$7,793.01 (statewide), and for Miami-Dade \$7,941.46.*

Implement the following strategies to avoid or mitigate education shortfalls:

- Avoid rolling back the Required Local Effort (estimated \$332.8 million);
- Identify new funding source(s) such as the Seminole Tribe gaming or fees;
- Provide flexibility in the use of all funds;
- Provide maximize flexibility with all federal stimulus monies;
- Implement a moratorium on new programs;
- Redirect the Schools of Hope funding to the BSA (\$40 million);
- Provide flexibility in Class Size Reduction to account for the possibility of classroom teacher and staff shortages due to the corona virus;
- Use Working Capital Trust Fund to avoid reductions to K-12 education; and
- Do not expand scholarship programs for 2020-2021.

Continue the Funding Compression and Hold Harmless Allocation formula established during the 2020 legislative session to address inequities of the current District Cost Differential calculation.*

Extend the authorization of the locally voted levy for operating purposes from four years to 10 years.

Expand the allowable use of the Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance Program to include classroom equipment and personal protective equipment.

Support funding to offer an extended school day and year beyond 180 days for all students to address learning loss as a result of required school closures due to COVID-19.*

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM:

For 2020-2021, waive the sanctions related to third grade promotion, end-of-course calculations, graduation test requirements, performance evaluations of instructional and administrative staff, or reinstate the No more Than One Letter Grade Drop provision established in 2012.*

Require all publicly funded educational delivery methods to adhere to the same regulatory and funding standards.

**Denotes priority item*

GOVERNANCE:

Support constitutionally elected local school boards and elected or appointed superintendents' authority to supervise all public schools.

CAPITAL FUNDING:

Support the state fully funding charter school capital outlay and ensure that sharing school board's Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue with charter schools is permissible and not required for school districts.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Fully fund the cost of the requirement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) or School Safety Officer (SSO) at each public school.

Increase funding significantly for mental health services for students to facilitate the hiring additional school counselors, social workers, and psychologists.

Continue to provide funding for safety infrastructure needs inclusive of mobile panic alert system and cameras in school buses and on bus stop-arms.

TEACHER/PERSONNEL SHORTAGE:

Continue to invest in teacher salaries by continuing to fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation as a separate categorical as well as implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships and loan forgiveness programs to encourage and attract talented students to enter the field of education.*

Allow school districts to re-employ teachers, other instructional personnel, and substitute teachers after one month of retirement without penalty to the employee's pension.

Ensure that Pre-K teachers are included in all funding opportunities and benefits afforded to K-12 teachers such as the extension of the Deferred Retirement Option Program to 96 months.*

Amend F.S. 1012.22 to stipulate that performance-based salary adjustments are annual and not recurring.

Extend the deadline for the completion of the requirements for the obtainment of Professional and Temporary Teaching Certificates through June 30, 2021.

SCHOOL READINESS:

Support state funding for a high-quality, full-day Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program that provides a minimum of 990 hours for all eligible students.

Replace the current VPK assessment with a developmentally appropriate on-going assessment tool to timely measure children's progress and development, to inform the teachers and parents, and to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

*Denotes priority item

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

FUNDING

Fund programs taken by students beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours a week such as dual enrollment or virtual classes outside the traditional school day and year.

Provide funding to establish an annual summer institute for Cuban-American studies.

Support the appropriations of resources to fund strategies to teach and promote racial and social justice, unity and harmony among students.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM:

Revise the definition of low-performing schools by eliminating the criteria of earning a "B" or higher in the most recent two years.

Establish required credentials and regulations for Education Advocates who charge fees for their service.

Ensure that the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test is offered in Haitian Creole.

SCHOOL SECURITY/SAFETY

Amend F.S. 316.172 to allow local school boards to install cameras on school buses to aid in the enforcement of school bus safety laws and authorize the enforcement of such by local certified law enforcement agencies.

Amend the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Safety Act to facilitate the requirement of charter schools reporting their SESIR incident data independently of school districts.

FACILITIES

Modify the utilization factor for K-8 centers as follows: 100% of Florida Inventory of School Houses for elementary school student stations, and 95% for middle school student stations.

Exempt school districts from paying ad valorem tax for leased properties similar to charter schools' exemption.

CYBERSECURITY

Strengthen the state's Cybersecurity Task Force role and require that it develop and share best practices and guidelines to protect student, parent, and employee information as well as provide funding to school districts to upgrade and strengthen its controls.

**Denotes priority item*

POLICY STATEMENTS:

Funding

Fully fund the Florida Education Funding Program components, class size reduction requirement while providing increases to the BSA and other components of the FEFP.

Examine Florida's tax structure and phase out sales tax exemptions for non-essential goods and services; ensure that internet sales remit necessary sales tax to Florida.

Oppose the imposition of unfunded, state-mandated expenditures.

Maintain the integrity of the FEFP and equity of funding among school districts.

Oppose any prescribed expenditure such as the "65 percent solution" as a mandate in the Florida Constitution and further oppose any such legislation, unless established as a spending goal with the definition of expenditures, to include all instructional support expenditures.

Oppose legislation that increases the sovereign immunity liability limits on governmental agencies.

Commit to long-term funding stability for teacher performance pay and teacher evaluation systems.

Allow school districts to locally establish contract provisions inclusive of cost structures with postsecondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment.

Increase ESE per-pupil funding to account for both student growth and inflationary cost particularly in level 254 and 255 to provide early identification and intervention services for students with autism.

Support grant funding to create new and innovative programs and academies.

Fully fund the extension of the school year by 25 instructional days for the lowest-performing elementary schools in lieu of extending the school day.

Support funding to offer an extended school year beyond 180 days for all students.

Maintain the current required employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing any planned increase in local employers' contribution.

Support continued state funding for the administration of college entrance exams, SAT or ACT, during school days.

Oppose any further compression of the Discretionary Millage.

Ensure that required sharing of referenda monies with charter schools remains prospective for any referendum passed after July 1, 2019.

Support funding for Adults with Disabilities.

Restore funding for New World School of the Arts.

Fully fund school districts' instructional materials needs.

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development programs.

**Denotes priority item*

Establish that performance-based salary adjustments are annual and not recurring.

Ensure that any changes to the District Cost Differential take into account cost differences integral to educational institutions' operations reflecting such costs as average teacher salaries, health insurance for employees, property insurance per FTE, housing, and transportation costs per FTE.

Provide school districts with greater flexibility of its use of Title I funds by separating the indirect cost from the 10 percent allowable administrative set-aside and increasing the allowable educational services set-aside to 10 percent.

Require advertising a tax increase only when the cumulative tax millage is greater than the prior levy and not simply because the ad valorem tax basis generates more proceeds.

Increase the ESE Guarantee Allocation to account for student growth and inflationary costs.

Eliminate the arbitrary cap on the number of gifted high school students funded.

Support supplemental funding to create community-based networks that develop, coordinate and provide quality education, parental training, accessible health care, housing, youth development programs, and employment opportunities to ensure safe neighborhoods for children and their families.

Restore school districts discretionary lottery to pre-recessionary levels.

Preserve funding that allows M-DCPS to assist refugee and immigrant students and their families or that negatively impacts our students' ability to obtain an education in Florida.

Allocate funds directed to provide supplemental services and support to at-risk students.

Restore funding for the Digital Classroom Allocation to address new secondary school computer science requirement and other school technology needs.

Capital Funding

Provide adequate school construction funding to support new and existing facilities, technology, maintenance, land acquisition and class size reduction needs through the establishment of long-term, stable and recurring revenue sources to fulfill the state's educational facility needs.

Fully fund the Public Education Capital Outlay Program that involves construction and maintenance programs for public school districts and ensures that school districts receive their fair share.

Oppose any further reduction in capital millage available to school districts for the purpose of balancing the operating budget.

Oppose any attempt to equalize the capital outlay levy.

Oppose the deletion of impact fees unless replaced with another revenue source.

Expand the allowable use of a locally voted upon sales tax to include operating expenses that maintain, renovate, or repair existing school facilities or maintain, secure, or upgrade school technology equipment.

Governance

Oppose legislation that subverts district governance of constitutionally elected local school boards and elected or appointed superintendents.

**Denotes priority item*

Oppose legislation that modifies the governance structure of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Oppose legislation that breaks up large school districts.

Oppose term limits for school board members.

Restore school board authority over travel providing greater flexibility to carry out its duties.

Charter Schools

Oppose any changes to current requirements regarding charter conversion of traditional public schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Establish a level playing field for traditional public schools by extending the current statutory flexibility such as the exemption from State Education Required Facilities (SREF), categorical funding, accountability, class size reduction compliance and related penalties assessed on charter schools.

Support capital funding for charter schools that:

- Creates neither a reduction of funding to traditional public schools in operating or capital funding nor a requirement for additional taxing mandate on the local school district;
- Requires public input; and
- Protects taxpayers' investment ensuring that capital funding be spent only on assets that can be returned to the public school district.

Require charter schools that receive capital outlay funding to serve as hurricane evacuation shelters.

Oppose any legislation that reduces school board authority over charter schools, such as alternate authorizers or the establishment of charter school systems to serve as Local Educational Agencies.

Support legislation that promotes transparent student recruitment strategies, application processes and enrollment lotteries, and supports enrollment equity of educationally disadvantaged students and underserved/underrepresented students.

Choice

Support increased accountability measures for all publicly-funded school choice options.

Oppose all publicly funded programs that lack equitable and sufficient accountability measures.

Oppose implementation of additional or any increases in funding of choice programs while requiring more accountability from schools receiving Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTCS) funding.

Amend the Hope Scholarships to apply only to "substantiated" incidents of harassment, bullying, and battery.

CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Allow school districts with at least 15 percent of total student enrollment in charter schools to analyze the need for additional charter schools and/or require new charters to locate in areas to address overcrowding, provide choice opportunities to students/parents zoned to failing schools, or meet a specific academic need the school district is not addressing.

**Denotes priority item*

Support legislation that:

- prohibits applicants with existing charter schools under academic or financial corrective action plans, investigation, or some other kind of sanction to apply for an additional charter schools;
- strengthens accountability, protects taxpayers' investment and ensures compliance with charter school fiduciary responsibilities; and
- requires charter schools that have been in operation for less than five years and/or in financial distress to place funds in an escrow account to cover expenditures associated with closure such as final audits, legal fees, corporate dissolution, asset retrieval, bankruptcy fines, and the value of at least one payroll payment.

Protect taxpayers' interest by attaching a proprietary interest equal to the value of the allocation from the local discretionary capital outlay levy revenue provided to charter schools, and prohibit charter operators from personal enrichment from public funds.

Academics

Oppose legislation that would limit offering gifted programs to eligible high school students.

Require the state to provide a minimum of one-year lead time on new state requirements for school districts.

Maintain the current dual delivery system of post-secondary programs.

Support adding the attainment of the Advanced Placement Capstone diploma as one of the eligibility requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Ensure charter and private schools receiving public monies adhere to the same teacher certification, student placement, and progression policies to ensure compliance with federal and state accountability requirements.

Support requiring health education to include human trafficking.

Accountability and Assessment

Revise the current accountability assessment system to:

- Provide a waiver from the passage of the English Language Arts (ELA) requirement for ELL students who have passed all other high school graduation requirements and have been enrolled in school less than two consecutive years;
- Include the performance of ELL students enrolled in school for more than two years for accountability on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA); and

Define goals for ELL and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) subgroups based on achieving learning gains on state assessments as opposed to achieving proficiency.

Student Safety/Wellness

Support legislation that Increased penalties for firing a gun within 1,000 feet of a school and that establishes penalties for the unsupervised possession of a firearm by a minor.

Support legislation that prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes in misleading forms such as pens and USBs.

**Denotes priority item*

Support legislation and state funding to increase awareness of opioid drug use and its impact.

Support legislation that proposes a “slowing down zone” within an area prior to entering a school zone.

Support funding to provide training for students, parents, teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, and volunteers to learn how to recognize behaviors that lead to bullying and harassment.

Ensure any casino authorized in Florida is at least 1,000 feet from a school or land designated for school purpose.

Ensure that the sale of low-THC edibles is precluded within 1,000 feet of a school.

Support legislation that precludes a child victim or witness to a crime be subjected to a discovery deposition in any criminal court proceeding.

Support telemedicine legislation that facilitates effective and efficient use of technology to provide health services to schools minimizing the length of time students are out of school due to illness.

Support efforts to limit navigation apps from directing traffic to neighborhoods away from major highways or streets.

Support legislation that incorporates the instruction of the dangers and signs of human trafficking as part of health education and funding for the development of an awareness campaign to educate students and parents on the dangers and signs of human trafficking providing information concerning approaches used by traffickers, and behavior that should be reported to authorities.

Fund and require water safety and swimming instruction in all public schools.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

Restore performance-based incentive funding for postsecondary CAPE Industry Credentials.

Public Meetings

Amend state statutes to clarify that meeting with legislators to advocate for the Board’s legislative priorities is not a violation of the Sunshine.

**Denotes priority item*

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

Provide the highest quality education so that all of our students are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

FEDERAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Exempt K-12 and workforce education spending from budget cuts, while providing funding to school districts to address the fiscal impacts of the COVID 19 health emergency, including state or local budget cuts and lawsuits asserting claims for compensatory services arising from such emergency, and at a minimum increase funding to meet increased costs due to inflation, increased number of students, and critical unmet needs.*

Increase the federal investment in public education to: fully fund the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and avoid provisions that would divert substantial federal resources into competitive grant programs:

- Increase the federal investment in IDEA to the guaranteed level of 40% of the costs to meet special education mandates and fully fund the government's promised share of ESEA.
- Increase federal entitlement funding to school districts through Title I appropriations for disadvantaged students, Title II for supporting effective instruction, Title III for supplementary instructional support for English Language Learners (ELLs), Title IV for student support and academic enhancement, and Title IX for education for homeless children and youth.

Oppose formula changes or the creation of newly funded programs that dilute or divert funding from high-need public schools, including public portability or any other private school choice programs that lack the same level of academic and fiscal accountability by which local school districts are governed.*

Support legislation that appropriates supplemental funding for school safety to support:

- school districts and local law enforcement partnerships to ensure that schools have well-trained and equipped police personnel to protect children while in schools;
- school infrastructure hardening needs for increased school safety; and
- mental health services for students with training of teachers and support personnel such as psychologists, school social workers and counselors.*

Support increased funding to provide opportunities to expand public school magnet choices to students and parents and support current magnet choice programs in school districts.

Support funding for the expansion of Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) programs.

Support funding for safety infrastructure needs inclusive of cameras in school buses and on bus stop-arms.

Support the current use of Census data to determine allocations of federal funding and federal representation in Congress.

*Denotes priority item

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT)

Monitor the impacts of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Every Student Succeeds Act 2015, or ESSA), and support legislative or regulatory modifications that provide adequate flexibility, guidance and support for local implementation and measures of progress for students and schools.

Protect the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) under ESSA to exercise local control over the use of allocated entitlement funding, including Title I, without further federal or state restrictions.

Support elimination of or alternatives to the use of State Per Pupil Expenditure (SPPE) in current or new federal allocation formulas, based on analysis by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES 2019-016) showing that Florida has the lowest U.S. Title I allocations per formula-eligible child in multiple grant categories.

Revise ESEA Section 3114(d) related to Title III distribution formula to allocate funds based on the number of immigrant students and not limit those funds to entities that have experienced “significant” increases in immigrant students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Support the reauthorization and expansion of Early Head Start/Head Start programs that provide increased funding and appropriate early education standards that are aligned with state academic content standards designed to ensure school readiness.

Support federal funding to develop, expand, and enhance quality voluntary preschool programs while ensuring the adoption of developmentally appropriate early education standards that are aligned with state K-12 academic content standards.*

Support legislation that encourages states to develop and expand effective, innovative preschool delivery models that promote high-quality childhood education programs and ensure school readiness.

IMMIGRATION IMPACT

Address the financial impact of federal immigration policies on local school districts and the continuing demand for immigrant education and integration programs by supporting the Refugee and Entrant Assistance Programs under the Targeted Assistance and Immigrant Education allocation serving foreign-born students and their families.

Oppose formula changes that would dilute Targeted Assistance for counties with large refugee populations or limit funding allocations by excluding any legal refugees who have arrived in the U.S. in the past five years.*

Support future increases in funding for school districts during periods of immigration influx and a waiver of the award ceiling for high-impact communities. Ensure that later-arriving children of refugees are accounted for in whatever funding formula is used, without imposing a requirement of individualized documentation on school districts.

Support federal funding directly to school districts to address the burdensome costs of serving

*Denotes priority item

the needs of unaccompanied children arriving at schools to ensure districts' operational readiness.

Support provisions of a comprehensive immigration bill that supports English language literacy and technical training as well as the DREAM Act or similar legislation that would provide immigration relief to a select group of students who grew up in the United States, have good moral character, and are enlisted in the military or pursuing a college education.

Support regulations defining "public charge" that do not penalize for the use of public services which positively impact the health, education, and school meals of all youth in our public schools.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

Provide waivers for school meal flexibility and hold harmless to school districts from meal services operational deficits resulting from declared emergencies, including the entire 2020-2021 school year.*

Support the reauthorization of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act that:

- Provides program funds to support the costs of food service employees receiving training and professional development;
- Reduces costly and onerous mandates on school districts;
- Avoids new limits on the number of eligible participants, including higher thresholds for community eligibility, verification burdens, or limits on the frequency of applications; and
- Supports healthier eating options, such as non-dairy options, for students with increased federal commodity food allocation for school meal programs to off-set higher costs of purchased foods for districts.

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Oppose policy revisions to Medicaid that would cap federal support without regard to the actual number of eligible children or would limit the increase of health service costs below the medical inflation rate.*

Oppose any policy revisions that restrict or reduce school-based reimbursement for administration expenditures and certain transportation costs for services provided to low-income children with disabilities.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION

Support equitable public school construction and modernization, including capital costs to improve accessibility, ventilation and school safety, within any national approach to public infrastructure investment.

Support supplemental allocations for large school districts with high levels of free- and reduced-price lunch participants to implement "green" sustainable projects, including upgrading technology infrastructure, replacing school buses or maintenance vehicles to improve operational efficiency and to reduce the carbon footprint, and extending the useful life of existing school buildings.

Extend the federal tax deduction (Section 179d) to encourage energy efficient building renovations.

*Denotes priority item

STUDENT PRIVACY

Support reauthorization of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in a manner that respects student privacy rights without burdensome administrative duties to local school districts, including administrative or legal requirements, or opt-out provisions that would jeopardize the role of educational research.

TECHNOLOGY

Support increased resources with local flexibility and expand eligible expenditures to include educational linkage beyond the school to include the student's residence for the Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate) and streamline refund procedures to provide schools and libraries with affordable access to state-of-the-art networking and telecommunications technology and oppose caps on programs that support internet educational needs.*

Support Open Internet legislation, policies and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations to ensure that public educational uses are not prioritized behind paid commercial services.*

Support modifying FCC regulations to provide E-rate funding to school districts, not individual schools, to use based on needs as determined by the districts.

Redress disproportionate impacts of 2014 E-Rate Modernization Orders on high-poverty schools and large districts, including higher local contributions from the most-impooverished schools (Category Two services) and the budget impact of fully phasing down large-district legacy systems by 2019 (Category One services).

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and related legislation or initiatives, including programs that impact low-literacy and disadvantaged populations inclusive of students with disabilities.

Preserve the role of district-operated adult education and job training programs.

HEALTH CARE

Retain tax-advantaged status of employee and employer contributions for healthcare premiums and costs including Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) as well as Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA).

PERSONNEL

Implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships and loan forgiveness programs and simplify eligibility and compliance requirements to encourage and attract talented students to enter into the field of education.*

Enhance resources to recruit, develop, and retain highly-qualified teachers in fragile or low-performing schools.*

*Denotes priority item

STUDENT SAFETY

Support funding and legislation that establishes and expands programs to support increased detection and monitoring of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

Support legislation that prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes in misleading forms such as pens and USBs.

Support legislation that provides supplemental resources to assist school districts in deferring Internet crime and cybercrime through awareness and promotion prevention to our students, teachers, and parents.*

Support funding for the development of an awareness campaign to educate students and parents on the danger and signs of human trafficking, information concerning approaches used by traffickers, warning signs of trafficking, and behavior that should be reported.

Increase funding and need-based grants that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments, so as to implement and expand interventions that focus on reducing disruptive and aggressive behaviors, that redress stresses of isolation and depression which may escalate into severe emotional distress and anxiety, and that strengthen students' emotional and behavioral competencies.

Support juvenile justice reforms that strengthen educational outcomes.

Provide supplemental funding to create community-based networks that develop, coordinate and provide quality education, parental training, health care, housing, youth development programs, and employment opportunities to ensure safe neighborhoods for children and their families.

Support legislation or regulations that provide for enhanced scrutiny of foreign student exchange organizers and enhanced screening of U.S. host families, including fingerprint-based criminal background checks.

CYBERSECURITY

Establish a nationwide taskforce to develop and share best practices and guidelines to protect student, parent, and employee information and provide funding to school districts to strengthen controls in this area.

*Denotes priority item