

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Family, and Community Engagement  
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**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2023 STATE AND FEDERAL  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS**

**COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
PLAN: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONAL  
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 2023 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 stakeholders including School Board Members, the Superintendent of Schools, District staff, municipal and county governments, and employee and citizen groups. The proposed 2023 State Legislative Program and the 2023 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.

The recommended priorities address the increased costs associated with the current economic climate, calls for equity in student funding, and critical issues to the District, such as recognizing Board governance over public schools; school readiness; mental health resources for students; strategies to continue to attract and retain teachers; and continued funding of school safety measures which will remain a major topic of discussion at the state and federal levels.

The state legislative session is scheduled to commence on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, and conclude on Friday, May 5, 2023. The proposed 2023 State Legislative Program is organized in three sections: Critical Priorities; Additional Issues; and Policy Statements. The Priorities are a limited number of issues on which staff and the Board's lobbying team will focus their efforts: Funding; Accountability and Assessment Reform; Governance; Teacher/ Personnel; Capital Funding; School Security/ Student Safety, and Academic Enhancements. The only must pass issue for the Florida Legislature, however, are the state's budget for 2023-2024.

At the federal level, the 118th United States Congress will begin its first congressional session on January 3, 2023. The proposed 2023 Federal Legislative Program continues to urge Congress to invest in public education, public education infrastructure, including energy efficiency, safety, connectivity, and early childhood and workforce education, as well as continued funding necessary to address increased operational costs associated with the long-term impact to student learning from 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.

It is anticipated and understood that both the proposed State and Federal Legislative Programs may be amended by the School Board in the coming months and potentially throughout the sessions to address evolving issues, policy positions, and/or emerging priorities. Staff will provide the Board with regular updates regarding legislative policy issues and the progress of its priorities. Staff, as well as our legislative consultants, stand ready to assist the Board in coordinating meetings with legislators and their staff, executive office or administration officials, and/or visits to Tallahassee or Washington, DC.

**RECOMMENDED:**

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

1. adopt the proposed 2023 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 operations of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, but does not have major policy implications, provided such issues are reported to the Board.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 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.*

**2023 LEGISLATIVE CRITICAL PRIORITIES**

**FUNDING**

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) commensurate with the rate of inflation or by at least 7 percent and maintain the full calculation of the Required Local Effort (RLE).<sup>‡</sup>

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

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

Oppose any further compression of the Discretionary Millage.

Ensure the Funding Compression established during the 2018 legislative session sunsets on June 30, 2023.

Ensure Districts that receive students from storm impacted areas are provided FTE funding necessary to support all student services.

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM**

Provide sufficient funding to support efficient implementation of the FAST assessment at the school district level.<sup>‡</sup>

Continue to refine the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) progress monitoring system to ensure equity and fairness in the application of State Accountability.<sup>‡</sup>

Ensure student data privacy is provided for all state-mandated computer assessments.<sup>‡</sup>

**GOVERNANCE**

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

Oppose any legislation that reduces school board authority over charter schools.

*\*Denotes priority item*

*‡ Denotes priority of Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards*

## **TEACHERS/PERSONNEL**

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. †

Provide adequate funding to significantly increase mid-career teacher and support staff salaries on a recurring basis and minimize the negative impacts of the current employee retention crisis, including dealing with the compression resulting from recent legislative increases to minimum salary levels. †

Provide incentives and/or funding to facilitate the development of workforce housing specifically for public school personnel.

Amend F.S. 1012.21 (2) to include Pre-K staff in the definition of “Instructional Personnel.”

Amend F.S. 1012.584 to provide the necessary mental health training to those practitioners who care for students affected by a natural disaster and dealing with hardships.

## **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 /STUDENT SAFETY**

Increase the Safe Schools Categorical allocation by at least \$100 million to narrow the funding gap associated with the mandate to staff one “safe school officer” per school and ensure sustainable funding for school districts. †

## **ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS**

Increase funding significantly for mental health services for students to facilitate the hiring additional school counselors, social workers, psychologists, school nurses, and/or emergency medical personnel.

Expand funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program sufficient to cover the cost of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten Program. †

Expand VPK to include program options for three-year-old students.

Provide state funding for 2 administrations of college entrance exams, SAT and/or ACT, during school days.

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

Expand education programming for young adult ESE high school students transitioning out of the K-12 setting by providing tuition exemption for workforce pathways operated by school district career and technical education programs.

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## **ADDITIONAL ISSUES**

*\*Denotes priority item*

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## FUNDING

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

Implement a moratorium on new programs or requirements without the allocation of new and adequate funding.

Fully fund Class Size Reduction and provide a penalty waiver process under certain emergency conditions. †

Provide funding to expand Florida International University's annual summer Cuban-American Research Institute.

Provide funding for Dual Enrollment courses taken beyond the school day, above the 1.0 FTE or 25 hours/week.

Maintain funding for New World School of the Arts and secure additional funding for Miami Arts Studio 6-12 at Zelda Glazer.

Provide for an optional summer school program for all students.

Support additional flexible funding to offer an extended school day and the year beyond 180 days for all students.

Any proration for FY 2022-2023 should be covered by the Florida Legislature. †

Ensure the projection and full cost of the increases for the Voucher and Scholarship programs be specifically detailed in each calculation for budget development. †

Change the funding process for vouchers to align to the School District's FEFP allocations more accurately after each calculation and ensure the integrity of categorical funds is maintained. †

Ensure PreK-12/school districts are included in the allocation of new sources of revenue.

## TEACHER/PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

Allow school districts to re-employ personnel after one month of retirement without penalty to the employee's pension to address labor shortage issues.

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

Restore the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) that was suspended from the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit calculation in 2011.

Permit local districts to design a differentiated pay plan for teachers, inclusive of a performance pay measure, based on local needs.

*\*Denotes priority item*

*† Denotes priority of Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards*

Incentivize universities to partner with local school districts for the purpose of allowing the school districts to hire student interns, who are enrolled in a teaching program, as resident teachers of record and compensate them during their teaching internship at a district school.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM**

Provide flexibility within the State's school accountability system to hold districts harmless for students who chose to attend voucher programs and then return to the district with minimal educational preparation.

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

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

Realign the responsibility to administer the Civic Literacy Assessment Requirement established during the 2020-2021 Legislative Session from school districts to state colleges/universities.

Ensure that results from the FAST progress monitoring system are meaningful and can be exported to other student information systems within one week after testing window has closed.<sup>‡</sup>

## **CHOICE**

Allow school districts with at least 15 percent of 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.

Require that charter schools enrollment lotteries be transparent to all stakeholders and that processes are auditable and driven by governing board adopted school policy.

Require a standardized enrollment window for all public school's choice programs, including charter schools.

## **SCHOOL /STUDENT 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.

Continue to provide funding for safety infrastructure needs, inclusive of school campus hardening, lightning detection, alert systems, and cameras in school buses and on bus stop-arms.

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.

*\*Denotes priority item*

*‡ Denotes priority of Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards*

## **CYBERSECURITY**

Provide funding to school districts to upgrade and strengthen cybersecurity controls.<sup>‡</sup>

## **INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Amend F.S. 1003.42 (1)b. to require instructional materials related to reproductive health and disease education be approved by the local school board whenever new material is considered for adoption or placed on a five-year adoption cycle, rather than annually.

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## **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.

Oppose the imposition of unfunded, state-mandated expenditures.

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

Support an FTE bi-annual method of calculating funding for VPK classrooms.

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.

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

Support funding for Adults with Disabilities.

Fully fund school districts’ instructional materials needs.

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.

*\*Denotes priority item*

*‡ Denotes priority of Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards*

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 requirements and other school technology needs.

Oppose any further expansion of the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) or similar voucher programs.\*

Support capping the annual increase of the Family Empowerment Scholarship\*

Support funding to enhance community resources and postsecondary opportunities, such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities, including those on the Autism spectrum, who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.

## **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**

\*Denotes priority item

† Denotes priority of Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards

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

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 Legislation that negatively impacts the salaries of 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.

## **CHOICE**

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

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

Require more accountability from schools receiving Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) funding and cap annual increases.

Require all public choice educational schools to follow a "school choice" enrollment policy, which could include but would not limited to: common application window(s), universal choice application, universal enrollment platform, public and auditable lottery process.

## **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.

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

Support restoration of the "textbook" supplement to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

*\*Denotes priority item*

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## **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; 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 and state funding to increase awareness of opioid drug use and its impact.

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

Support full funding for required water safety and swimming instruction in 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.

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**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2023 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**

Support federal Maintenance of Equity requirements, increase funding and flexibility to meet long-term COVID-19 impacts, inflation, and critical unmet needs, and exempt K-12 and workforce education from any budget cuts.\*

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 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (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 and social-emotional learning to provide for:

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

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, including funding for transportation.

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

Support funding for safety infrastructure needs inclusive of school hardening, lightning detection and alert systems, cameras in school buses and on bus stop-arms.\*

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*\*Denotes priority item*

Support funding from the federal government to enhance community resources and postsecondary opportunities, such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities, including those on the Autism spectrum, who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.\*

## **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 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.\*

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\*Denotes priority item

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 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.

### **SCHOOL NUTRITION**

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 AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Support equitable and flexible public school construction and modernization, including capital costs to improve accessibility, ventilation, school safety, energy efficiency, and digital connectivity 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.

Support funding allocations to assist school districts in implementing sustainability measures including use of alternative energy sources such as solar, and the acquisition of electric buses and fleet vehicles, as well as necessary infrastructure to support their use.

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\*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 campus, including student homes, for the Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate) to provide schools, libraries, and students with affordable access to state-of-the-art networking and telecommunications technology.\*

Support Open Internet legislation, policies and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations to ensure that public educational uses do not have a lower priority than 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.

## **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 and amplify 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, loan forgiveness programs with simplified eligibility and compliance requirements, and other financial incentives 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.\*

Enhance programs, funding, and incentives for the development of affordable workforce housing for public school employees.

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\*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 deterring Internet crime and cybercrime through awareness and promotion of 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 for programs that foster safe, healthy, and supportive environments to expand interventions to reduce disruptive behaviors, redress stresses of isolation and depression, and strengthen students' social, 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 collaborative mechanism to coordinate cybersecurity efforts between federal agencies and with the K-12 community to develop, fund, and share best practices and guidelines to protect student, parent, and employee information.\*

Provide funding to school districts to strengthen cybersecurity.\*

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\*Denotes priority item