



**National School Boards Association and National Alliance for Hispanic Health
Join Together to Provide Hispanic Communities with
Timely and Accurate COVID-19 Information and Access to Vaccinations and Boosters**

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought tremendous challenges to the U.S. and the world, certain segments of the population have seen outsized impacts. In education, the pandemic widened achievement and opportunity gaps as many students already facing significant challenges were disproportionately impacted by school closures, loss of instruction time, and limited access to broadband.

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is proud to be working with the National Alliance for Hispanic Health (Alliance) in support of the [Vacunas \(Vaccines\) Certified Vaccine Navigator \(CVN\) Network](#), a national network for community-based services in 38 cities to deliver trusted and science-based information on COVID-19 prevention while reducing barriers and increasing Hispanic communities access to vaccinations.

As part of this effort, NSBA is creating a series of resources containing actionable information and best practices to help school boards and other district leaders support Hispanic communities in their COVID-19 outreach and vaccination information. The resources include:

- A research brief developed by NSBA's Center for Public Education that highlights the disparate impact that the pandemic has had on Hispanic/Latino communities, the unique challenges facing these communities (work obligations that were not flexible, logistical barriers, language barriers, immigration concerns, and a lack of information about the availability, safety, and effectiveness of vaccines from trusted sources), and a set of best practices for meeting these challenges.
- A three-part webinar series to raise awareness of COVID-19 facts, challenges, and supports in the Hispanic community that highlights how school board members can address inequities in health care, mental health care stigma, COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, and more.
- A special section on [NSBA's COVID-19 resource page](#) developed in collaboration with the Alliance that provides health resources and information relevant for parents, families, and education leaders, as well as Alliance contact information geared to the Hispanic community.

NSBA will distribute these resources through its state school board association members, four Equity Councils, and work-a-like groups such as state association executive directors, focusing on the 38 cities in the *Vacunas* CVN Network and the affiliated state school boards associations that represent those cities. NSBA's National Hispanic Council (NHC), which promotes quality education for all students with an emphasis on the problems and successes of the Hispanic

student, will play a key advisory and communication role to provide critical resources to Hispanic/Latino communities.

NSBA has hosted special sessions during its virtual and in-person conferences, including its 2021 Council for Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Conference and 2022 Equity Symposium, to address the issues of COVID-19, vaccinations, and additional health concerns in urban educational environments. NSBA is planning similar sessions at its signature event in April, the 2022 Annual Conference, which will include specific events for the NHC and other equity councils.

School boards are empowered to be the guiding force for their school districts and are uniquely positioned to support students and communities in challenging times through their vision and leadership. In their governance role, boards serve as ambassadors for their districts, embracing their role in providing accurate information and impactful support to their communities. Boards also have the distinctive opportunity to collaborate with outside organizations to help meet the specific needs of their communities.

We are seeing signs that the pandemic has started to wane, but vaccines continue to be the strongest tool to prevent future infections and limit community spread. Together, we are confident we can deliver trusted and science-based information on COVID-19 prevention and increase Hispanic community access to vaccinations.

If we can support any of your efforts providing information and access to COVID-19 prevention and vaccinations please contact vacunas@healthyamericas.org. We thank you for all that you have done during this difficult time to ensure parents and families are safe, healthy, and have the support they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



John Heim
Executive Director and CEO
National School Boards Association



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