

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) looks forward to working with the Biden/Harris administration and the next Congress to improve education and equity for the approximately 50 million public school students in our nation. NSBA has prepared recommendations—both for the first 30 days after the inauguration, and for the first year and beyond—to address the ongoing national emergency while setting a vision for the future of our public schools.

Key Education Recommendations for the First 30 Days of the Biden/Harris Administration:

1. Appoint a Special Presidential Task Force Led by Dr. Jill Biden on Public School Transformation and Equity
 - The task force will focus on creating an equitable education system that better prepares students for future success.
2. Provide COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Other Assistance
 - NSBA calls for immediate relief for public schools of at least \$200 billion, with \$175 billion for states to use for K-12 purposes, \$13 billion for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and \$12 billion for Title I. Further, NSBA calls for an additional \$12 billion to address the homework gap, distributed through the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate program.
 - Classify educators and school personnel as essential workers so they can receive vaccinations as soon as possible so that school buildings can reopen safely to protect students, families, and employees.
 - The U.S. Department of Education should grant temporary waivers from the accountability requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for 2021 due to the difficulties that have arisen from COVID-19.
3. Reverse Discriminatory Executive Actions and Rules that Harm Public Schools and Students
 - Key changes include, but are not limited to, rescinding the current administration's Advisory 1776 Commission, which interferes in local decision making, and all rules that harm the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Key Education Recommendations for the Biden/Harris Administration in 2021 and Beyond:

1. Promote Public School Innovation and Oppose Diversion of Taxpayer Funds to Private Schools
 - NSBA urges the new administration to support innovative instructional models—such as a shift to more student-centered and personalized learning to encourage deeper learning — to promote 21st century skills.
 - NSBA strongly opposes voucher proposals that benefit private schools by diverting funding meant for public education.
2. Fully Fund IDEA
 - The federal government has not lived up to its responsibility to provide adequate funding to help local schools with the efforts to educate the more than 7 million students with disabilities. The new administration should fully fund IDEA in its budget or offer a pathway to implement full funding over a 10-year period.

3. Help Students from Low-Income Families Through Increased Funding for Title I

- NSBA supports the President-elect's proposal to triple funding for this important program that helps level the playing field so all students can have an excellent education.

4. Promote Digital Equity and Close the Homework Gap

- Close the digital divide for the almost 17 million public school students who lack adequate access to high-speed broadband and/or devices and provide an additional \$12 billion for the homework gap related to the pandemic.

5. Focus on Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Professional Training

- The next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) must do more to strengthen educator preparation and encourage high-performing students to become teachers through proposals such as the bipartisan Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals (PREP) Act.
- ESEA Title II funding increase for modern professional development focused on better using technology and student learning data and using innovative instructional models to better prepare students for necessary 21st century skills.

6. Focus on Cybersecurity and Student Privacy

- Cybersecurity investments must be included as part of emergency education and broadband funding provided by Congress. Further, NSBA urges that the 40-year-old Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) be modernized so schools can use data to best serve students, while ensuring personal information remains private and secure.

7. Pass Legislation to Protect Dreamers and Establish a Pathway to Citizenship

- Amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to restore the pathway to U.S. citizenship for qualified undocumented students previously protected by the DACA program. We also seek an extension of the DACA program to provide immediate support for continuity and reassurance that students will not be separated from their families and communities and that their education will not be jeopardized.

8. Invest in School Infrastructure

- Secure support for the Rebuild America's School Act that would spur school infrastructure projects. NSBA also supports reinstating advance refunding into the federal tax code to help school districts and other municipal bond issuers secure significant savings in finance costs for capital improvement projects to properly fund public schools.

