



## FSBA 2018 Federal Platform

The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) calls upon the U.S. Congress to fulfill its role in supporting and promoting a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education. In pursuit of this goal, FSBA urges Congress to:

- ★ Provide sufficient federal funding to pursue and implement federal initiatives and mandates including, at a minimum, funding and related policies to:
  - Exempt K-12 and workforce education spending from cuts under sequestration, and, at a minimum, increase funding to meet increased costs due to inflation, increased enrollment, and critical unmet needs;
  - Increase the federal investment in IDEA to the level of 40% of the costs to meet special education mandates;
  - Support the existing Title I formula and distribution that provides local flexibility in determining the best use of federal funds for the planning of school improvement initiatives;
  - Oppose any change in law that would allow portability of Title I and/or IDEA funding;
  - Oppose any reduction in Title II funds for teacher and principal training and professional development;
  - Oppose any reduction in Title III funds for English Language Learners (ELL) and provide funding for the unreimbursed costs associated with educating immigrant students;
  - Protect the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) under ESSA to exercise local control over the use of allocated entitlement funding without further federal or state restrictions;
  - Avoid any effort to divert substantial federal resources into competitive grant programs.
  
- ★ Support the implementation of ESSA including, at a minimum, policies to:
  - Provide maximum flexibility to local districts in determining school intervention and improvement activities;
  - Preclude current and future administrations from adopting rules that are not expressly required by law in ESSA;
  - Support the intent of ESSA to restore local authority and flexibility by opposing over-reaching federal mandates, imposing top-down directives, and one-size-fits-all requirements.
  - Ensure that the maximum amount of funding provided through ESSA flows directly to school districts;
  
- ★ 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.
  
- ★ Ensure all possible federal assistance (FEMA and other agencies) is made available in a rapid manner to school districts having facilities and related services impacted by Hurricane Irma.
  
- ★ Continue to support and monitor the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) implementation of the “ConnectEd” plan for E-Rate, increase overall funding for E-Rate to keep pace with costs and inflation, and ensure that public educational uses are not prioritized behind paid commercial services.

- ★ Support educating all students regardless of immigration status and amend or enact federal legislation to resolve issues related to undocumented students who are long-term residents.
- ★ Support reauthorization of the Perkins Career/Technical Education Act with flexibility to create or continue appropriate partnerships with postsecondary education institutions, workforce development boards, and local business/industry.
- ★ Support high-quality early education opportunities (including head start, Pre-K, early education, professional development for personnel, and more), with ample flexibility for local authority in implementation.
- ★ Support public school choices that are rigorous, engaging, and governed by local school boards so they are accountable to students, parents and the community.
- ★ Support an increase in USDA reimbursement for “free” lunch in order to pay for the escalating costs of healthy food, transportation and labor which has not kept pace with the current reimbursement.
- ★ Support legislation that would allow states to collect state sales tax due on remote and internet purchases of goods and services that are currently taxable offline.