



Florida School Boards Association

*The voice of education in Florida.*

### ***FSBA 2020 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;
  - Oppose any change in law that would allow portability of, or reduce school district authority over, Title I 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;
  - Oppose any reduction in Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment block grants.
  - Avoid any effort to divert substantial federal resources into competitive grant programs.
- ◆ Support federal legislation to re-authorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that includes a phased in schedule for the federal government to fund its promised share of the costs for implementing IDEA requirements.
- ◆ Support school district efforts to recruit, retain, and reward outstanding school leaders and instructional personnel through federal funding for loan forgiveness, recognition bonuses, salary stipends and similar programs.
- ◆ Support federal funding for school safety to ensure that schools have well-trained and equipped law enforcement personnel, to support the capital costs of school hardening, to increase the number of school counselors and social workers, and to assist in deterring internet crime and cybercrime.
- ◆ Oppose any effort to cap Universal Service Fund (USF) funding for the E-Rate program, simplify the application process, and oppose any effort that would require the E-Rate program to compete with other eligible programs for USF funding.
- ◆ Support efforts to strengthen the federal investment in meeting school capital outlay needs and related infrastructure to provide a sufficient number of well constructed and well equipped school facilities that support the latest technology and are prepared to serve the school community in times of emergency or natural disaster.
- ◆ Update the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and related federal privacy laws and regulations to better protect the privacy and security of student data and health information and to ensure that such information is accurate and used only in the best interests of students and their families.
- ◆ Support increased funding for the 2020 Census to ensure an accurate and complete count of the people in every state and to ameliorate the undercount of communities of color, individuals of immigrant origin, and individuals who are not yet fully fluent in English.