



Broward County Public Schools

2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

117th CONGRESS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Legislature should boost funding and adopt policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world. BCPS will advocate for legislation consistent with School Board policy and programs.

Coronavirus Pandemic

- Provide school districts with direct and flexible stabilization funding to ensure they have the necessary resources and support during the ongoing pandemic.
- Extend regulatory flexibilities and waivers for key nutrition programs to ensure students have access to school meals during remote/hybrid learning.
- Provide states and school districts with increased flexibility for meeting accountability and assessment requirements.
- Make school districts eligible for the same payroll tax credits available to businesses that help offset the costs of the newly mandated paid leave policies.

Federal Education Resources

- Enhance and maintain resources for federal education programs including Title I for disadvantaged students; Title II for improving teacher and principal training and recruiting; Title III for English Language Learners; and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- Fulfill the commitment to allocate 40 percent of the national per pupil average expenditure to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill.
- Preserve the funding and reimbursement structure for Medicaid, specifically those payments to schools for qualifying services provided to students with disabilities.
- Support the Apprenticeship and Jobs Training Act or similar legislation that will provide tax incentives to businesses that offer apprenticeship programs to students.
- Support increased federal investments to meet the physical and digital infrastructure needs of schools, including through robust grant and tax credit bond programs.
- Support increased federal investment for school climate improvement initiatives.

Every Student Succeeds Act

- Ensure that resources authorized under the Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant remains consistent with Congressional intent to foster nurturing school environments without compromising the safety and well-being of students, teachers, and school personnel, including not arming teachers.
- Maintain a collaborative local-state-federal partnership to maximize the flexibility in ESSA, and support school districts through technical assistance and compliance resources.

Student Safety

- Maintain and increase support for programs including those authorized under the Stop School Violence Act, Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant, and Safe Routes to Schools.
- Advocate for programs that address emotional and behavioral wellness, school security and student privacy.

Child Nutrition Act

- Maintain nutrition standards phased in under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act as supported by students, parents and educators alike.
- Address the issue of summer hunger by expanding the Summer Food Service Program in partnership with local community sponsors.
- Ensure the continued training options for food service professionals.

Head Start

- Enhance funding for Head Start and appropriate early education standards for Head Start that are aligned with state academic content standards designed to ensure school readiness.
- Support development and expansion of quality voluntary preschool programs while ensuring the adoption of developmentally appropriate early education standards that are aligned with state K-12 academic content standards.

Immigration Impact

- Address the financial impact of federal immigration policies on local school districts by providing continued resources under programs such as the Entrant and Refugee Assistance Program and the English Language Acquisition Program, while also supporting the DREAM Act or similar legislation.