

Guiding principles for federal education policy

- Federal policy equity includes both policy and resources, both of which should remain available to all students, schools and states.
- The role of the federal government in education is to help ensure access to equitable educational opportunities and to supplement and support, rather than dictate, local efforts in education.
- It is unrealistic to expect all students to achieve college and career readiness without providing districts the necessary funding to do this challenging work.
- Federal funding should support the total child, from physical and mental health to the development of fundamental lifelong learning skills.

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

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2016 Federal Legislative Agenda

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2016 Legislative Priorities
Fully Fund IDEA
Ensure an Appropriate
Federal/State/Local Balance

Ensure an Appropriate Federal/State/Local Balance

- The role of the federal government is to support and strengthen - not dictate and prescribe to - schools and state and local policies.
 - School systems should not be required to spend state and local funds for federal mandates.
 - Ensure all entities receiving public dollars are subject to the same requirements, accountabilities and flexibilities.
 - Provide developmentally appropriate curriculum, instruction and assessments to all students.
 - Tests must be used for the purposes for which they were designed: one test cannot serve multiple measures.
- ### Enhance District Technology Infrastructure & Student Data Privacy
- Permanently exempt E-Rate from the Anti-Deficiency Act.
 - Provide coherent guidance for parents and educators regarding laws around data security.
 - Update definitions to address the realities of the digital age.

Support Students, Families and Special Populations

- Support equitable distribution of federal dollars with greater investments in formula driven programs.
- Permanently resolve sequestration through a combination of spending cuts and revenue increases.
- Support expansion of access to early education to all children.
- Fully Fund IDEA: By honoring its commitment to support the education of students with disabilities, Congress will enable districts to shift dollars towards new initiatives that address their local needs.
- Support federal policy that flexibly supports the unique needs of rural communities, including REAP, Impact Aid, and Forest Counties, among others.
- Support use of a metric that reflects the total ELL subgroup.

Support Personnel

- Exempt substitute teachers and other variable hour employees from coverage under the ACA.
 - Reduce the paperwork requirements for Perkins and E-Rate.
 - Streamline IDEA procedures by permitting parents and districts to opt-out of processes and paperwork related to IEPs.
- ### Strengthen District Operations
- Ensure new data collection requirements, burdensome regulations and new guidance and policies issued by the U.S. Department of Education must be examined in the context of what is statutorily required of districts and current funding levels.
 - Reform the special education due process system to provide more effective, less costly and less litigious means of resolving disputes.
 - Ensure districts have greater flexibility to reduce local maintenance of effort levels for IDEA if the provision and quality of services for students with disabilities is unaffected.