



Florida School Boards Association

The voice of education in Florida.

PROPOSED 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:

- A. 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;
 - Increase the federal investment in IDEA to 40% of the costs of federal mandates;
 - Oppose any change in law that would allow portability of 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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Allocate federal funds for school safety that ensure that schools have well-trained and equipped police personnel, support the capital costs of school hardening, increase the number of school counselors and social workers, and assist in deterring internet crime and cybercrime.
- E. Support public school choice options that are rigorous, engaging, and governed by local school boards and advocate for full accountability of the use of public funds for any educational purpose.
- F. Retain and improve educator preparation programs, particularly Title II, and the public service loan forgiveness programs.
- G. 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.
- H. Support local flexibility in determining the best use of federal Title I funds for school improvement initiatives and oppose any effort to impose federal or state restrictions on a school district's use or distribution of these funds.
- I. Monitor the the ongoing implementation of ESSA to ensure the spirit of the law and local governance is upheld and to preclude the adoption of rules that are not expressly required by law in ESSA.