



Guiding principles for federal education policy

- 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 with 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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2015 Federal Legislative Agenda

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2015 Legislative Priorities

Reauthorize ESEA

Fully Fund IDEA

Limit Federal Intrusion in State and
Local Policies

ESEA Reauthorization Should Include:

- Allocation of funds via formulas based on the percentage of poverty.
- Limitation on regulations to ESEA programs.
- Separation of the use of assessments for instruction from school and district-level accountability and teacher evaluation systems.
- Specification that federal government should supplement and support—not dictate—state’s policies.
- Direction that a reduction in federal funds be accompanied by a reduction in federal mandates;
- Direct allocation of funds to the local level.
- Direction that school systems should not be required to spend state and local funds for federal mandates.
- Oppose continued use and extension of ESEA waivers in place of comprehensive reauthorization.

IDEA

- Mandatory funding for IDEA at 40 percent of the national average per-pupil expenditure.
- Permit school districts to reduce local effort by up to 100 percent of federal funding increases.
- Ensure districts have greater flexibility to reduce local maintenance of effort levels if the provision and quality of services for students with disabilities is unaffected.
- Reform the special education due process system to provide more effective, less costly and less litigious means of resolving disputes.

Early Childhood Education

- Make available federal funding that supports high-quality early education opportunity
- Support expansion of access to early education to all children.
- Improve access to high-quality child care programs for poor families.
- Coordinate early childhood programs regardless of funding source.

Perkins Career and Technical Education

- Maintain current formula for distributing funds as well as minimum grant allocations
- Keep separate Perkins funding streams for secondary and post-secondary systems
- Reduce data collection burden.

Vouchers

- Oppose Title I portability.
- Oppose federal funding to non-public schools.
- Oppose special education vouchers.

Student Data and Privacy

- Provide coherent guidance for parents and educators regarding FERPA, PPRA, and COPPA.
- Update definitions to address realities of the digital age.

Other Issues

- Permanently resolve sequestration.
- Within the Affordable Care Act, redefine a full-time employee as a person who works 40 hours/week.
- Ensure all entities receiving public dollars are subject to the same requirements, accountabilities and flexibilities.