



2015 Federal Legislative Program, 114th Congress

Broward County Public Schools

GOAL STATEMENT

As the 6th largest school district in the Nation, Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) educates 10 percent of Florida's student population. BCPS champions educational policies that educate today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

FEDERAL EDUCATION RESOURCES:

- Restore critical resources to their pre-sequester funding levels for formula funded programs including Title I appropriations for disadvantaged students; Title II for improving teacher and principal training and recruiting; and Title III for English Language Learners (ELLs).
- Fulfill the commitment to fund 40 percent of the national per pupil average expenditure to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Support reform of formula funding disparities which hinder resources from reaching the nation's poorest students.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND):

- Reauthorize and modify the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to:
 - Eliminate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and replace with credible accountability standards designed to foster learning. Retain Maintenance of Effort to ensure the full benefit of ESEA resources are not offset against State budgetary reductions.
 - Allow numerous sources of evidence of student achievement and performance.
 - Reward and retain quality teachers by supporting measures that raise pay for teachers and administrators, particularly in fields with shortages and/or in high-need communities; that create career ladder paths; and that assist with rising housing costs.
 - School districts should continue to have the option of applying for certification as a supplemental education services (SES) provider to their own students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

- Support increased funding for the Head Start Program and appropriate early education standards for Head Start that are aligned with state academic content standards designed to ensure school readiness.
- Support federal funding to develop, expand, and enhance 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.

TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS:

- Streamline the annual application process during the restructuring of the E-Rate Program and preserve resources to refresh the essential infrastructure elements that are part of the end-to-end connectivity such as network cabling and electronics, the installation of Wi-Fi equipment and telephone system upgrades.

STUDENT SAFETY:

- Maintain and increase support for programs including Safe Routes to Schools; Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act; and others that address preparedness and security; as well as emotional and behavioral wellness.