



## 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program, 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

### GOAL STATEMENT

As the 6<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the nNation, 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 PRIORITIES

#### FEDERAL EDUCATION RESOURCES:

- ~~Enhance critical resources for federal education programs including Title I for~~ 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 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.
- 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): EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT IMPLEMENTATION (TBD)

- ~~Ensure implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act includes: Reauthorize and modify the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to:~~
  - Congress should require USDOE to delay the implementation of ESSA from the 2017-18 school year to the 2018-19 school year.
  - Congress should ensure that implementation efforts secure a balanced local-state-federal partnership, maximize the flexibility in ESSA, and support school districts through technical assistance and compliance resources

For more information please contact the Legislative Affairs Department at 754-321-2608.

- ~~○ 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:

- 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.

#### 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.
- Support Juvenile Justice Advisory Committees, which assist students who are in the juvenile justice system and transitional placement upon release.

#### CHILD NUTRITION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

- 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.
- Ensure training for food service professionals.

#### CARL PERKINS CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

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- Ensure all students have access to high-quality career and technical (CTE) programs in middle and high schools, including students with disabilities and English-Language Learners.
- Increase federal support for innovative programs and initiatives that offer students earlier exposure to CTE programs.
- Ensure that CTE educators are included in key decisions about future program and curriculum designs, through collaborative efforts at the local, state and federal level.
- Stronger collaboration among educational institutions and the private sector in order to design better programs and more accurately and effectively track progress.

## 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.

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