

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the 2024
state and federal legislative
priorities of the Miami-Dade
County Public Schools

Resolution No. R-1018-23

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator René García.


Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/jp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 7, 2023

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(12)
11-7-23

RESOLUTION NO. _____ R-1018-23

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE 2024 STATE AND
FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (“MDCPS”) has continued to deliver compelling and nationally recognized student achievement gains despite Florida’s economic challenges during the last several years; and

WHEREAS, MDCPS is the third largest school district in the United States, comprised of approximately 331,500 students and over 34,400 employees; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County School Board (“School Board”) has adopted a legislative platform (“Platform”) that reflects its legislative priorities for the 2024 state and federal legislative sessions, copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference; and

WHEREAS, said legislative priorities were identified by School Board and MDCPS staff, as well as interested citizens, parent-teacher groups, employee groups, administrators, and other community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Platform includes items related to academic achievement, state funding, capital funding, accountability and assessment reform, governance, teacher and personnel retention and shortages, and school security; and

WHEREAS, the Platform includes, among other requests, that the Florida Legislature:

- (1) enhance Florida’s commitment to Early Childhood Education by expanding funding for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program sufficient to cover the cost of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten Program and include program options for three-year-old students;

- (2) increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation commensurate with the rate of inflation and cost-of-living increases, but no less than 5 percent new funding, and maintain the full calculation of the Required Local Effort;
- (3) continue to refine the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking progress monitoring system to ensure equity and fairness in the application of State Accountability;
- (4) oppose any legislation that reduces school board authority over charter schools;
- (5) implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships, loan forgiveness programs with simplified eligibility and compliance requirements, and other financial incentives to encourage and attract talented students to enter the field of education;
- (6) provide increased funding for safety infrastructure needs, inclusive of school campus hardening, lightning detection, alert systems, and cybersecurity controls;
- and

WHEREAS, the Platform includes items related to increasing federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the Platform includes, among other requests, that the United States Congress:

- (1) support federal Maintenance of Equity requirements, increase funding and flexibility to meet impacts of immigration, inflation, and critical unmet needs, and exempt K-12 and workforce education from any budget cuts;
- (2) oppose formula changes that would dilute Targeted Assistance for counties with large refugee populations or limit funding allocations by excluding any legal refugees;

- (3) oppose any policy revisions that restrict or reduce school-based reimbursement for administration expenditures and certain transportation costs for services provided to low-income children with disabilities;
- (4) preserve and amplify the role of district-operated adult education and job training programs;
- (5) implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships, loan forgiveness programs with simplified eligibility and compliance requirements, and other financial incentives to encourage and attract talented students to enter into the field of education;
- (6) support legislation that prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes in misleading forms such as pens and USBs; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports MDCPS' Platform as the requested actions are a necessary investment in the education, safety, and security of MDCPS' students who reside in our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Approves the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Supports the 2024 state legislative priorities of Miami-Dade County Public Schools as reflected in the attachment.

Section 3. Supports the 2024 federal legislative priorities of Miami-Dade County Public Schools as reflected in the attachment.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the members of the Florida Congressional Delegations, the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker of the State of Florida, the Chair and members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation, and the Superintendent and board members of the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Section 5. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of the Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2024 State Legislative Package to include the item.

Section 6. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the action set forth in section 3 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2023 Federal Legislative Package to include the item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator René García. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Raquel A. Regalado** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	absent		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	aye	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	absent	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	absent
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of November, 2023. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RAH", is written over a horizontal line.

Rochelle A. Hall



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

The Florida Legislature should establish a five-year strategic plan to restore, stabilize, and increase funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to achieve at least the national average in per pupil expenditures to provide the highest quality education and to enable all of our students to be empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENTS

Enhance Florida's commitment to Early Childhood Education:

- Expand funding for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program sufficient to cover the cost of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten Program.
- Expand VPK to include program options for three-year-old students.

Expand education programming for young adult ESE high school students transitioning out of the K-12 setting by providing tuition exemption for workforce pathways operated by school district career and technical education programs.

FUNDING

Increase the state's investment in K-12 education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) commensurate with the rate of inflation and cost-of-living increases, but no less than 5 percent new funding, and maintain the full calculation of the Required Local Effort (RLE).

Expand cost factors within the FEFP beyond the Comparative Wage Factor to include factors which disproportionately impact high-cost counties such as housing, transportation, health, and property insurance costs, which ultimately raise an educational institution's operational costs.

Eliminate compression within the FEFP formula.

Ensure that the full cost of increases expected for Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) is accounted for during the FY 2024-25 budget development and that the FTE associated with that projection remains transparent.

Maintain the Education Enrollment Stabilization Program in an amount necessary to prevent proration as a result of unanticipated enrollment increases (FES, immigration, natural disasters, demographic shifts).

Increase the Safe Schools Categorical allocation by at least \$100 million to narrow the funding gap associated with the mandate to staff one "safe school officer" per school and ensure sustainable funding for school districts.

Increase the mental health allocation to increase services to students and facilitate the hiring of additional school counselors, social workers, and/or psychologists in order to decrease student to counselor ratios.

Increase per pupil funding for all students with disabilities to account for both student population growth and inflationary costs related to services/programs.

Provide funding for Dual Enrollment courses taken beyond the school day, above the 1.0 FTE or 25 hours/week.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Establish that when distributing 1.5 mill capital outlay funds to charter schools, the total discretionary millage revenue available for distribution shall be reduced by the school district's annual debt service obligation incurred as of June 30 of each prior fiscal year.

Support funding allocations to assist school districts in implementing sustainability measures to improve operational efficiency, including the use of alternative energy sources such as solar, the acquisition of electric buses and fleet vehicles, and necessary infrastructure and technology upgrades to support their use.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Continue to refine the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) progress monitoring system to ensure equity and fairness in the application of State Accountability.

Provide sufficient funding to support efficient implementation of the FAST assessment at the school district level.

Remove the requirement for the State Board of Education to automatically annually adjust the school grading scale.

Maintain choice and flexibility to provide maximum mechanisms for students to achieve concordance for graduation purposes (i.e. PERT, ACT).

Include the use of Native Language Assessments for newcomers who enroll within two years of their graduation date.

Provide a waiver from the passage of the English Language Arts (ELA) requirement for ELL students who have passed all other high school graduation requirements and have been enrolled in school less than two consecutive years.

GOVERNANCE

Support constitutionally elected local school boards and elected or appointed superintendents' authority to supervise all public schools.

Oppose any legislation that reduces school board authority over charter schools.

Support the streamlining of statutory and State Administrative Code requirements in order to enhance the efficiency of public school operations.

Remove restrictions on the disposal of surplus school board property.

Allow school boards to omit one regular monthly meeting during the summer period (June, July, or August).

TEACHERS/PERSONNEL

Continue to invest in teacher and instructional personnel compensation improvement by providing sufficient funding to the Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Increase to ensure salary increases beyond the prior fiscal year amount.

Implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships and loan forgiveness programs to encourage and attract

talented students to enter the field of education.

Amend the teacher apprenticeship program to allow eligibility based on an Associate's degree or 60 credit hours from an accredited higher education institution, a GPA of 2.5 consistent with other pathway-to-certification programs, and remove the subject-area test as an eligibility requirement for a temporary apprenticeship certificate.

Provide supplemental funding for secondary teaching academies and education career pathway programs.

Provide incentives and/or funding to facilitate the development of workforce housing specifically for public school personnel.

Allow unused school board facility or property to be redeveloped by the district for its workforce housing without requiring multi-party governance.

Include Pre-K staff in the definition of "Instructional Personnel."

SCHOOL /STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Provide increased funding for safety infrastructure needs, inclusive of school campus hardening, lightning detection, and alert systems.

Provide funding to school districts to upgrade and strengthen cybersecurity controls.

Provide funding to support at least one nurse or emergency medical technician at each school.

Provide the necessary mental health training to those practitioners who care for students dealing with hardships and/or affected by a natural disaster.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

FUNDING

Provide for an optional summer school program for all students.

Ensure PK-12 school districts are included in the allocation of any new sources of revenue.

Fully fund Class Size Reduction.

Fund programs taken by students beyond the 1.0 FTE cap or 25 hours a week such as virtual classes outside the traditional school day and year.

Implement a moratorium on new programs or requirements without the allocation of new and adequate funding.

Provide funding to expand the annual Cuban-American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and implemented in partnership with Florida International University.

Secure supplemental funding for New World School of the Arts and Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer and Arthur & Polly Mays 6-12 Conservatory of the Arts.

Secure supplemental funding for the establishment of community hubs to deliver educational and family support, resources, and services in Miami-Dade County.

Secure supplemental funding to expand Baker Aviation facilities and/or programming.

Provide sufficient funding necessary to cover increased cost to school districts for annual consumable materials associated with state-adopted texts.

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development programs.

TEACHER/PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

Waive or shorten re-employment limitations for retirees to address labor shortage issues.

Restore the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) that was suspended from the Florida Retirement System (FRS) defined benefit calculation in 2011.

Permit local districts to design a differentiated pay plan for teachers, inclusive of a performance pay measure, based on local needs.

Implement and fund strategies such as tuition reimbursement, scholarships, and/or other incentives for talented individuals pursuing a Masters in School Counseling.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT REFORM

Provide flexibility within the State's school accountability system to hold districts harmless for students who chose to attend voucher programs and then return to the district with minimal educational preparation.

Require all publicly funded educational delivery methods to adhere to the same regulatory and funding standards.

Ensure that the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) test is offered in Haitian Creole.

Permit VPK providers not achieving the minimum program assessment composite score to implement a support or improvement plan option to be in place for at least one year prior to termination.

Realign the responsibility to administer the Civic Literacy Assessment Requirement established during the 2020-2021 Legislative Session from school districts to state colleges/universities.

Ensure that results from the FAST progress monitoring system are meaningful and can be exported to other student information systems within one week after testing window has closed.

Define goals for ELL and Exceptional Student Education (ESE) subgroups based on achieving learning gains on state assessments as opposed to achieving proficiency.

SCHOOL /STUDENT SAFETY

Authorize certified school board police agencies to enforce violations of F.S. 316.172(1)(a) and (b) which are captured by school bus infraction-detection systems.

Support full funding for required water safety and swimming instruction in public schools.

Require charter schools to report their SESIR incident data independently of school districts.

FACILITIES

Modify the utilization factor for K-8 centers as follows: 100 percent of Florida Inventory of School Houses for elementary school student stations, and 95 percent for middle school student stations.

POLICY STATEMENTS

FUNDING

Oppose the imposition of unfunded, state-mandated expenditures.

Oppose any further compression of the Discretionary Millage.

Oppose legislation that increases the sovereign immunity liability limits on governmental agencies.

Allow school districts to locally establish contract provisions inclusive of cost structures with postsecondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment.

Maintain the current required employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing any planned increase in local employers' contribution.

Support funding for Adults with Disabilities.

Provide school districts with greater flexibility of its use of Title I funds by separating the indirect cost from the 10 percent allowable administrative set-aside and increasing the allowable educational services set-aside to 10 percent.

Ensure Districts that receive students from legal immigration or disaster-impacted areas are provided supplemental funding as may be necessary to support all student services.

Restore school districts' discretionary lottery to pre-recessionary levels.

Support funding to enhance community resources and postsecondary opportunities, such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities, including those on the Autism spectrum, who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.

CAPITAL FUNDING

Provide adequate school construction funding to support new and existing facilities, technology, maintenance, land acquisition and class size reduction needs through the establishment of long-term, stable, and recurring revenue sources to fulfill the state's educational facility needs.

Oppose the deletion of impact fees unless replaced with another revenue source.

GOVERNANCE

Establish a level playing field for traditional public schools by extending the current statutory flexibility such as the exemption from State Requirements for Education Facilities (SREF), categorical funding, accountability, class size

reduction compliance, and related penalties assessed on charter schools.

Oppose legislation that subverts district governance of constitutionally elected local school boards and elected or appointed superintendents.

Oppose legislation that modifies the governance structure of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Oppose legislation that breaks up large school districts.

Oppose legislation that negatively impacts the salaries of school board members.

Restore school board authority over travel providing greater flexibility to carry out its duties.

Oppose any changes to current requirements regarding charter conversion of traditional public schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

Support equitable accountability measures for all publicly funded school choice options.

Amend state statutes to clarify that meeting with legislators to advocate for the Board's legislative priorities is not a violation of the Sunshine.

ACADEMICS

Clarify and protect policies, practices, and procedures that govern and legislate the teaching of African American History as stipulated in F.S. 1003.42, adopted in 1994, which requires instruction of history, culture, experiences, and contributions in the state's K-12 curriculum.

Ensure that state-defined principles of individual freedom, if applicable to K-12 curriculum, are applied equally to all special topics such as Women's history, Hispanic heritage, Holocaust education, and character education.

Provide a one-year lead time on the implementation of new state academic requirements for school districts.

Support adding the attainment of the Advanced Placement Capstone diploma as one of the eligibility requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Support restoration of the "textbook" supplement to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Support legislation that expands incentives and provides flexibility to individuals entering the school counseling profession such as creating teacher to counselor pathways or other programs.

STUDENT SAFETY/WELLNESS

Support legislation that increases penalties for firing a gun within 1,000 feet of a school and that establishes penalties for the unsupervised possession of a firearm by a minor.

Support legislation and state funding to increase awareness of opioid drug use and its impact.

Support funding to provide training for students, parents, teachers, school administrators, counseling staff, and volunteers to learn how to recognize behaviors that lead to bullying and harassment.

Support legislation to ensure that the sale of low-THC edibles is precluded within 1,000 feet of a school.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2024 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

MISSION/GOAL STATEMENT

Provide the highest quality education so that all of our students are empowered to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

FEDERAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

Support federal Maintenance of Equity requirements, increase funding and flexibility to meet impacts of immigration, inflation, and critical unmet needs, and exempt K-12 and workforce education from any budget cuts.*

Protect and increase the federal investment in public education to:

- Fully fund the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and avoid provisions that would divert substantial federal resources into competitive grant programs;
- Increase the federal investment in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to the guaranteed level of 40% of the costs to meet special education mandates and fully fund the government's promised share of ESEA; and
- Increase federal entitlement funding to school districts through Title I appropriations for disadvantaged students, Title II for supporting effective instruction, Title III for supplementary instructional support for English Language Learners (ELLs), Title IV for student support and academic enhancement, and Title IX for education for homeless children and youth.*

Oppose formula changes or the creation of newly funded programs that dilute or divert funding from high-need public schools, including public portability or any other private school choice programs that lack the same level of academic and fiscal accountability by which local school districts are governed.*

Support legislation that appropriates supplemental funding for school security and student safety to provide for:

- School district and local law enforcement partnerships that ensure that schools have well-trained and equipped police personnel to protect children while in schools;
- School infrastructure and campus hardening needs that improve school health and safety such as alert devices, security cameras, and lightning detection; and
- Mental health services for students with training of teachers and support personnel such as psychologists, school social workers, counselors, school nurses, and/or emergency medical personnel.*

Support increased funding to provide opportunities to expand public community schools and school magnet choices to students and parents, and support current magnet choice programs in school districts, including funding for transportation.

Support funding for the expansion of Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) programs.

Support funding from the federal government to enhance community resources and postsecondary opportunities, such as community-based life skills and transitional programs, for young adults with disabilities, including those on the Autism spectrum, who are transitioning out of the K-12 environment.*

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT)

Monitor the impacts of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA), and support legislative or regulatory modifications that provide adequate flexibility, guidance and support for local implementation and measures of progress for students and schools.

Protect the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) under ESSA to exercise local control over the use of allocated entitlement funding, including Title I, without further federal or state restrictions.*

Support elimination of or alternatives to the use of State Per Pupil Expenditure (SPPE) in current or new federal allocation formulas, based on analysis by National Center for Education Statistics (NCES 2019-016) showing that Florida has the lowest U.S. Title I allocations per formula-eligible child in multiple grant categories.

Revise the Title III distribution formula to allocate funds based on the number of immigrant students and not limit those funds to entities that have experienced “significant” increases in immigrant students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Support the reauthorization and expansion of Early Head Start/Head Start programs that provide increased funding and appropriate early education standards 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 standards.*

Support legislation that encourages states to develop and expand effective, innovative preschool delivery models that promote high-quality childhood education programs and ensure school readiness.

IMMIGRATION IMPACT

Address the financial impact of federal immigration policies on local school districts and the continuing demand for immigrant education and integration programs by providing direct funding to highly impacted school districts.*

Support the Refugee and Entrant Assistance Programs under the Targeted Assistance and Immigrant Education allocation serving foreign-born students and their families.

Oppose formula changes that would dilute Targeted Assistance for counties with large refugee populations or limit funding allocations by excluding any legal refugees.*

Support future increases in funding for school districts during periods of immigration influx and a waiver of the award ceiling for high-impact communities. Ensure that later-arriving children of refugees are accounted for in whatever funding formula is used, without imposing a requirement of individualized documentation on school districts.

Support federal funding directly to school districts to address the burdensome costs of serving the needs of unaccompanied children arriving at schools to ensure districts' operational readiness.

Support provisions of a comprehensive immigration bill that supports English language literacy and technical training as well as the DREAM Act or similar legislation that would provide immigration relief to a select group of students who grew up in the United States, have good moral character, and are enlisted in the military or pursuing a college education.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

Support the reauthorization of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act that:

- Provides program funds to support the costs of food service employees receiving training and professional development;
- Reduces costly and onerous mandates on school districts;
- Avoids new limits on the number of eligible participants, including higher thresholds for community eligibility, verification burdens, or limits on the frequency of applications; and
- Supports healthier eating options, such as non-dairy options, for students with increased federal commodity food allocation for school meal programs to off-set higher costs of purchased foods for districts.

MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

Oppose policy revisions to Medicaid that would cap federal support without regard to the actual number of eligible children or would limit the increase of health service costs below the medical inflation rate.*

Oppose any policy revisions that restrict or reduce school-based reimbursement for administration expenditures and certain transportation costs for services provided to low-income children with disabilities.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION/RENOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Support equitable and flexible public school construction and modernization, including capital costs to improve accessibility, ventilation, school safety, energy efficiency, and digital connectivity within any national approach to public infrastructure investment.*

Support supplemental allocations for large school districts with high levels of free- and reduced-price lunch participants to implement "green" sustainable projects, including upgrading technology infrastructure, replacing school buses or maintenance vehicles to improve operational efficiency and to reduce the carbon footprint, and extending the useful life of existing school buildings.

Support funding allocations to assist school districts in implementing sustainability measures including use of alternative energy sources such as solar, and the acquisition of electric buses and fleet vehicles, as well as necessary infrastructure to support their use.

STUDENT PRIVACY

Support reauthorization of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in a manner that respects student privacy rights without burdensome administrative duties to local school districts, including administrative or legal requirements, or opt-out provisions that would jeopardize the role of educational research.

TECHNOLOGY

Support increased resources with local flexibility and expand eligible expenditures to include educational linkage beyond the school campus, including student homes, for the Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate) to provide schools, libraries, and students with affordable access to state-of-the-art networking and telecommunications technology.*

Support Open Internet legislation, policies and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations to ensure that public educational uses do not have a lower priority than paid commercial services.

Support modifying FCC regulations to provide E-rate funding to school districts, not individual schools, to use based on needs as determined by the districts.

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

Support increased funding to meet the demands for workforce skills development under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and related legislation or initiatives, including programs that impact low-literacy and disadvantaged populations inclusive of students with disabilities.

Preserve and amplify the role of district-operated adult education and job training programs.

HEALTH CARE

Retain tax-advantaged status of employee and employer contributions for healthcare premiums and costs including Health Savings Accounts (HSA) and Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) as well as Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA).

PERSONNEL

Implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships, loan forgiveness programs with simplified eligibility and compliance requirements, and other financial incentives to encourage and attract talented students to enter into the field of education.*

Enhance resources to recruit, develop, and retain highly-qualified teachers in fragile or low-performing schools.*

Enhance programs, funding, and incentives for the development of affordable workforce housing for public school employees.*

Eliminate Internal Revenue Service restrictions which limit the reemployment of school district retirees.

STUDENT SAFETY

Support block grant funding for the employment of full-time security officers in all public schools.

Support funding and legislation that establishes and expands programs to support increased detection and monitoring of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

Support legislation that prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes in misleading forms such as pens and USBs.

Support legislation that provides supplemental resources to assist school districts in deterring Internet crime and cybercrime through awareness and promotion of prevention to our students, teachers, and parents.

Support funding for the development of an awareness campaign to educate students and parents on the danger and signs of human trafficking, information concerning approaches used by traffickers, warning signs of trafficking, and behavior that should be reported.

Increase funding for programs that foster safe, healthy, and supportive environments to expand interventions to reduce disruptive behaviors, redress stresses of isolation and depression, and strengthen students' social, emotional, and behavioral competencies.*

Support juvenile justice reforms that strengthen educational outcomes.

Provide supplemental funding to create community-based networks that develop, coordinate, and provide quality education, parental training, health care, housing, youth development programs, and employment opportunities to ensure safe neighborhoods for children and their families.

Support legislation or regulations that provide for enhanced scrutiny of foreign student exchange organizers and enhanced screening of U.S. host families, including fingerprint-based criminal background checks.

CYBERSECURITY

Establish a collaborative mechanism to coordinate cybersecurity efforts between federal agencies and with the K-12 community to develop, fund, and share best practices and guidelines to protect student, parent, and employee information.*

Provide funding to school districts to strengthen cybersecurity.