



2018

# Legislative Agenda

## LEADERSHIP MATTERS

for the success of our education system and our students. At the local level, leadership ensures the success of students. At the district level, leaders provide resources. State leaders provide oversight, and federal government leadership matters in identifying national priorities and promoting equal access to educational opportunities for all students.

But it is the involvement of education professionals in the decision making at each of these levels that matters most. Their leadership and expertise can inform the policies that support a whole child education for every student.



## Resource Equity

The college- and career-ready expectations for students have never been higher, while the needs of these students—the majority of whom now come from low-income families—have never been greater. Growing income inequality has only exacerbated educational inequities and disparities among communities of haves and have-nots. It is crucial that adequate investments be made to address these realities.

**ASCD calls on policymakers to provide the funding necessary to meet all mandates they impose and to increase resources to meet the needs of every student—especially socioeconomically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities—and to support career technical education, a well-rounded education, personalized learning, and high-quality teachers and principals.**

## Whole Child, Whole School, Whole Community

Educating students is the essential function of educators, yet it is neither solely their responsibility nor their only mission. Just as all community members share a larger duty for the security and prosperity of the neighborhood in which a school resides, families, businesses, and communities play roles in providing a safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environment. Such conditions must also include a rigorous and personalized academic experience that provides a well-rounded education and the necessary wraparound services for each student to succeed.

## Professional Development

Educators are the lifeblood of any knowledge economy and the embodiment of life-long learning. Teachers and school leaders are the two most important in-school factors for student achievement. Policymakers must recognize and value the expertise of educators by providing them with the professional development and leadership training opportunities and resources they require to meet the ever-changing needs of students and the profession for the careers of tomorrow. Moreover, educators should serve as positive change agents for students and for their local communities to support the successful and comprehensive development of youth.

**ASCD calls on policymakers to ensure that every classroom is led by an effective educator; to provide investments in personalized, job-embedded, and ongoing personal development; and to create incentives for recruiting, retaining, and promoting educators who contribute to student success and school quality.**

**ASCD calls on policymakers to offer healthy, nutritious meals to all students; to foster greater alignment, integration, and collaboration between education and the health sector to improve each child's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development; and to promote the components of a coordinated school health model so that students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.**

Visit [www.educatoradvocates.org](http://www.educatoradvocates.org) for information about policy resources and to become an ASCD Educator Advocate. Educator Advocates are informed about policy developments and engage with decision makers at all levels and in a variety of ways to promote the policies that best support students and schools.

**ASCD** is dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching, and leading so that every child is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. Comprising 115,000 members—superintendents, principals, teachers, and advocates from more than 128 countries—the ASCD community also includes 51 affiliate organizations. ASCD's innovative solutions promote the success of each child.

To learn more about how ASCD supports educators as they learn, teach, and lead, visit [www.ascd.org](http://www.ascd.org). Printer-friendly copies of the 2018 Legislative Agenda are available at [www.ascd.org/legislativeagenda](http://www.ascd.org/legislativeagenda). For additional information, contact ASCD Advocacy & Government Relations at [gr@ascd.org](mailto:gr@ascd.org).  
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