



2018

ASCD[®] Policy Recommendations

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Educators are the lifeblood of any knowledge economy and the embodiment of lifelong 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.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST

- Maintain the current \$2.1 billion for educator professional development in Title II, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Recognize the importance of teachers and school leaders by providing incentives for recruiting high-achieving students to enter the profession and retaining effective educators.
- Ensure that colleges of teacher preparation help beginning teachers understand and address the whole child needs of K-12 students.
- Provide adequate funding for educator training in the use of technology, particularly for personalized instruction, assessment, blended learning, and data collection and analysis in ESSA's Title II (\$2.1 billion) and Title IV, Part A (\$1.6 billion).
- Support teacher preparation with funding for accredited programs and accompanying accountability for results.

ASCD 2018 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

STATES SHOULD

- Take advantage of the 3 percent that ESSA Title II, Part A, set aside to provide targeted supports for principals and school leaders.
- Offer flexibility in routes to licensure while maintaining rigorous professional standards.
- Foster collaboration between institutions of higher education and local districts regarding educator preparation programs.
- Ensure that educators are evaluated using multiple measures of effectiveness, including parent and student surveys, peer observations, and student growth.
- Provide opportunities for educators to gain leadership experience as well as make adequate investments in educator leadership development.
- Create standards for educator leadership to ensure that current and future school administrators can meet the changing demands of students and schools.

DISTRICTS CAN

- Ensure that each student has access to effective educators and school leaders by providing opportunities for personalized professional development that is based on strengths and aligned to needs, encourages collaboration and a culture of ongoing learning, and drives continuous improvement.
- Recognize and reward teacher leadership by offering opportunities that help teachers grow and contribute to the wider school community while allowing them to remain in the classroom.
- Help retain effective educators and school leaders by providing induction, mentoring, and coaching, particularly for those new to the profession.
- Recognize the importance of the educator profession by providing teachers and school leaders with salaries, benefits, and opportunities for advancement commensurate with similarly educated workers in the private sector and that reflect their value to society and contributions to the greater good.

Visit 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. Printer-friendly copies of the 2018 Legislative Agenda are available at www.ascd.org/legislativeagenda. For additional information, contact ASCD Advocacy & Government Relations at gr@ascd.org.

© 2018 by ASCD. All rights reserved.

