



2018

# ASCD Policy Recommendations

## 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 wraparound services necessary for each student to succeed.

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.

### THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST

- Ensure that all students' civil rights are protected and collaborate with states, districts, and communities to create safe, healthy, and academically challenging learning environments in which all students can succeed and thrive.
- Invest in a well-rounded education for all students by providing \$1.6 billion for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant in Title IV, Part A, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Provide \$2.1 billion for ESSA's Title II, Part A, to support professional development for educators and ensure those funds can be used to help educators understand and address the comprehensive and whole child needs of their students.
- Enhance teacher preparation programs to ensure teacher training recognizes and helps to address the social and emotional needs of students.
- Ensure that all students have access to nutritious meals in school, after school, and during the summer by increasing the funding provided through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.

# ASCD 2018 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## STATES SHOULD

- Adopt a whole child approach to education that includes the components necessary to prepare all students for college, career, citizenship, and lifelong learning.
- Encourage collaboration between state departments of health and education around the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model of coordinated school health to ensure the integration of health and learning in all districts and schools.
- Incentivize meaningful partnerships between schools, businesses, and community organizations to increase opportunities for postsecondary college and career pathways.
- Promote collaborations among all state agencies that support children to help create a coherent whole child system that includes families, schools, and communities.

## DISTRICTS CAN

- Adopt the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model of coordinated school health to align and promote the integration of health and learning in all schools.
- Ensure all students receive personalized learning and a well-rounded education that includes instruction in social and emotional learning, opportunities to be physically active in school, access to mental health services, and access to nutritious meals in and out of school.
- Provide access to community- and school-based extended learning opportunities, experiential learning, and apprenticeships.
- Ensure all educators have access to ongoing, job-embedded professional development and training that drives instructional improvement to maximize student learning outcomes.

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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1703 N. Beauregard St. Alexandria, VA 22311