



National School Boards Association  
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February 18, 2021

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

*Re: S. Con. Res. 5 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Reconciliation Directives and Emergency Supplemental Assistance to School Districts for Coronavirus Recovery Efforts*

Dear Chairman Yarmuth, Ranking Member Smith, and Committee Members:

On behalf of our state associations and the 90,000 school board members who govern our country's 14,000 local public school districts, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) appreciates your leadership in governing our country's response, mitigation, and recovery efforts to respond to COVID-19. As our school boards and their districts work to ensure the safety of our nation's 51 million public school students, as well as faculty, staff, administrators, and other stakeholders who are in contact with school district facilities, we are writing in support of the budget reconciliation directives in S.Con.Res 5 that will provide the targeted assistance needed for secure, healthy learning environments.

These investments in education through S. Con. Res. 5, reported by the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Oversight and Reform, and others, will address a number of priorities for our children, school districts, and their communities including resources to help mitigate loss of learning, services for social and emotional needs, broadband connectivity for students impacted by the digital divide, supports for school districts and other public sector employers for COVID-related emergency employee leave, and additional supports for our most vulnerable students to address equity in education. This legislation will also ensure that equitable services will be administered in a manner consistent with the existing provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

NSBA's membership has advocated for these and other priorities since the coronavirus pandemic began, including greater federal support to help districts address the acute needs of students educated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as well as teacher attrition, digital equity and capacity building for distance learning to close the homework gap, correlated faculty and staff training, and more.

  
*The leading advocate for public education*

NSBA has launched our Public School Transformation Now! initiative to put our public students and their individual needs at the center of learning, as well as fight for a more just and equitable education system. This budget reconciliation focuses on educational equity in a manner that we hope will facilitate the flexibilities our districts need to deliver educational services across a range of platforms and circumstances during this pandemic, as well as build greater capacity for student-centered learning and improved educational outcomes.

We appreciate the swift response of the Administration and Congress to develop a recovery plan with the commensurate resources needed for both immediate and longer-term recovery. This measure will help prevent state and local budget cuts to essential educational services.

Furthermore, these budget reconciliation directives will help schools reopen safely and also advance distance learning, especially within communities that are experiencing an increase in coronavirus infections. Overall, this legislation is indicative of a shared intergovernmental priority to place the health and safety of our children, educators, families, and communities first; and, to help our districts deliver high-quality educational services during and beyond the pandemic. We look forward to working with you to ensure the success of our students during these unparalleled circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna M. Chávez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A" and "C".

Anna Maria Chávez, Esq.  
Executive Director & CEO