

ALAS



Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents 2019 Federal Legislative Platform

ALAS' federal legislative agenda is derived from our organizational mission—to provide leadership at the national level that assures every school in America effectively serves the educational needs of all students—and is the foundation of one of our three areas of focus, using policy and advocacy to ensure high standards and quality in our public education system. The policies outlined here represent the organization's overarching priorities as it relates to federal education policy. Subject to annual revision, the legislative platform allows the organization to pivot and prioritize a response to emerging federal policy discussions.

Equity must remain at the heart of all federal policy conversations.

- Successful federal education policy is based on the critical concept of equity and ensuring the role of the federal government in creating and supporting policies that level the education playing field for all students.
- Privatization of public education funding undermines our nation's public school system, denies equitable educational opportunity and represents failed federal policy. *NO VOUCHERS*
- The role of the federal government in education is to help ensure access to equitable educational opportunities and to support—rather than drive—education policy implementation at the state and local level.

Supporting Students and Teachers

- A child is more than a test score. As such, federal funding and policy should support the total child, from physical, social, emotional and mental health to the development of fundamental lifelong learning skills, as well as to ensuring the safety of their physical learning environment. *WHOLE CHILD, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*
- It is essential to preserve and increase funding for Title II of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to ensure teachers and leaders can receive professional development that enables them to successfully educate children from all backgrounds, and with a range of needs and abilities.
- It is critical to incentivize more policy and funding opportunities that enable the creation of a strong pipeline of teachers and administrators to work in hard-to-staff schools. *Higher Education and K-12 Public Schools*
- Our nation's immigration policies must be updated and we strongly support for the Dream and Promise Act that will ensure Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients are able to continue to work and learn in our school districts. *DACA*
- Support expansion of access to early education to all children without cutting into K-12 funding. *EARLY EDUCATION*
- Streamline the school-based Medicaid program to ensure that districts of all sizes can participate in the Medicaid program and expand healthcare services to children. *MEDICAID*

Funding

- Federal funding must be allocated to school districts via formulae that are fair and equitable.
- Fully Fund Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): By honoring its commitment to support the education of students with disabilities, Congress will enable districts to shift dollars towards new initiatives that address their local needs. *IDEA*