



NSBA 2021 Talking Points

Fighting for Public Schools in Funding and Resources

Fighting to increase investments for public schools is at the heart of NSBA's advocacy agenda. In addition to advocating for increased federal resources and investment, NSBA is committed to keeping taxpayer funds focused on public schools and fighting against private school voucher programs and similar strategies. More than 50 million children attend public schools accounting for 90 percent of all students in the U.S. We must invest in public education to move the nation forward. Modernizing and improving schools, improving learning, and creating an equitable education for all students require these crucial investments. Local schools cannot undertake true school transformation without help from the federal government. Innovation such as personalized learning requires adequate resources to implement.

NSBA's position on Fighting for Public Schools in Funding and Resources

- In October 2020, NSBA launched its Public School Transformation Now! campaign. This effort focuses on providing investments and resources to help public schools modernize learning and improve equity for students. Many school districts already provide educational choices such as local magnet schools, charter schools authorized by local school boards, and public specialty schools, such as military academies and those offering specialized curricula for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Investing in public schools will expand those options and allow other innovations such as personalized learning to be implemented across the nation. The 2021-22 budget should include large increases in funding for Title I and IDEA as called for in President Biden's early budget proposal that would increase the Title I investment by \$20 billion and IDEA by \$2.6 billion, as well as other increases for areas such as educator professional development and closing the Homework Gap.
- Public funds should be reserved for public schools, including to advance high-quality curricula and choice, such as through charter schools authorized by local school boards or magnet schools. Voucher proposals that divert federal resources from public schools to private, parochial, or home schools will harm millions of students and families. Vouchers leave behind many disadvantaged students because private schools may not accept them or do not offer the special services they need, such as support for students with disabilities and English learners. Building an equitable education means meeting the most students where they are—attending their local public school.
- NSBA called for a renewed focus on modernizing public schools in its transition recommendations and its Public School Transformation Now! efforts. Congress and the administration should begin the process of modernizing public schools to better prepare students for 21st century success and should invest in public education to make it happen. The effort will not only benefit students but also the entire nation.