



### HIGHER EDUCATION

NASSP asks that members of Congress support the **Recruiting and Retaining Effective School Leaders Act** once it is reintroduced in the 115th Congress. This bill was introduced in the House by Representative Susan Davis (D-CA) during the last Congress and we will seek a sponsor to introduce companion legislation in the Senate during this Congress. The act would provide loan forgiveness to principals and assistant principals who commit to serve in low-income schools, which will:

- Help encourage prospective school leaders to enter the profession.
- Incentivize the strongest school leaders to work in the nation's highest-need school districts.
- Reduce principal turnover.

NASSP also encourages members of Congress to support the **Educator Preparation Reform Act** (S.1694/H.R.3636). This bill will:

- Improve accountability for teacher and principal preparation programs.
- Require reporting on program features related to future success in the classroom such as admissions standards, clinical preparation requirements, placement, retention, and performance.
- Expand the Teacher Quality Partnership Grants in Title II of the Higher Education Act to include residency programs for principals.

NASSP hopes that members will also support the **Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals (PREP) Act** (S.3308), introduced by Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA). This bill aims to address both teacher and principal shortages by broadening the definition of a high-need district under the Every Student Succeeds Act to include rural districts with educator shortages, as well as districts lacking teachers in specific subject areas, such as teaching English learners, science, math, engineering, and career and technical education. This bill would also:

- Encourage programs in which districts partner with local universities and community colleges to increase teacher ranks.
- Increase access to high quality teacher and school leader residency and preparation programs.

NASSP urges members of Congress to support the **Making Education Affordable and Accessible Act** (S.718/H.R.1710), which is a bipartisan bill introduced in the Senate by Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and John Boozman (R-AR), and in the House by Representatives Jared Polis (D-CO) and Tom Reed (R-NY). The bill would allow institutions of higher education to use their Title VII funding under the Higher Education Act for dual and concurrent enrollment programs for high school students. Funding could be used to cover the cost of tuition and fees, textbooks, or other required instructional materials.

Lastly, NASSP requests that members oppose the **PROSPER Act** (H.R.4508), introduced by Representative Virginia Foxx (R-NC). Any efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act should focus on aiding future educators throughout their postsecondary education and ensure they're properly trained and prepared to be effective in the classroom. H.R.4508 fails in this regard, as it will:

- Cut over \$15 billion from federal student aid.
- Limit the assistance future educators receive to work in high-need areas by eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
- Eliminate federal funding for teacher and principal preparation programs.

# NASSP LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



#PrincipalsAdvocate

## SCHOOL CLIMATE AND SAFETY

NASSP believes in the message that school leaders and staff members, along with community members and leaders, have a shared responsibility to promote student well-being and ensure that schools are safe. All students have a right to attend schools without fear of violence and Congress must help support a holistic approach to violence intervention and prevention both inside the walls of our schools and in our communities.

NASSP has come out in support of the **STOP School Violence Act** (S.2495/H.R.4909), which was introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Representative John Rutherford (R-FL), and passed in the 2018 omnibus. This bill:

- Provides grant funding for evidence-based training to prevent student violence against others and themselves, including training for local law enforcement officers, school personnel, and students.
- Funds evidence-based technology and equipment to improve school security and prevent violent attacks.
- Provides funding for the development and operation of evidence-based school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams, which may include evidence-based training for school officials in responding to mental health crises.
- Provides funding for continued coordination with local law enforcement.

NASSP also encourages members to support bills that promote positive mental health supports for students, like the **Mental Health in Schools Act** (S.1370/H.R.29) and the **Safe Schools Improvement Act** (S.2572/H.R.1957). The Mental Health in Schools Act would help bolster the Safe Schools/Healthy Students program by assisting communities in creating comprehensive, evidence-based, trauma-informed services that incorporate strategies of positive behavioral interventions and on-site support in schools. The Safe Schools Improvement Act would require that schools implement comprehensive anti-bullying policies that address the bullying and harassment of all students. The bill would also require states to report data on bullying and harassment to the Department of Education so that this information could be shared with Congress.

Lastly, NASSP strongly opposes any effort to arm teachers, principals, or other administrators in schools with the exception of specially trained school resource officers (SROs). Any proposal to arm any individual other than SROs in schools is dangerously shortsighted, and leaves schools more vulnerable to accidents and violence. Instead, a larger focus should be spent on providing additional funding and support for mental health and crisis identification and intervention programs, as well as on enhancing school safety procedures.

For additional information on NASSP's legislative priorities, visit the NASSP Policy & Advocacy Center at [www.nassp.org/advocacy](http://www.nassp.org/advocacy). Or contact Zach Scott, NASSP's senior manager of federal engagement and outreach, at [scottz@nassp.org](mailto:scottz@nassp.org).

