



2021 Federal Legislative Platform

The School District of Palm Beach County SUPPORTS:

- All efforts to pass the fifth Coronavirus Stimulus/Relief Bill, known as the "Heroes 2.0 Act", in the Senate.
- An increase in critically-needed funds for mental health services which would include teacher training, support staff training, guidance counselors, and costs of hiring outside psychologists and agencies.
- An increase in the federal investment in the IDEA program to the original 40% of the cost needed to meet special education mandates.
- Federal funds distributed directly to school districts in emergency situations, such as in health pandemics, to cover costs related to testing, contact tracing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and sanitization.
- Federal funding that would establish a financial incentive to employers who provide space and, if necessary, supervision to children of employees for distance learning in the workplace.
- Federal funding to increase the Title IV allocation so that schools can provide more meaningful support to English Language Learners (ELL), as well as other students who may need additional support as evidenced by literacy achievement data.
- Flexible funding for technology, which includes expanding the E-rate program to include the student homes.
- Full funding of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
- Restricting state education agencies from imposing additional funding requirements on school districts beyond those mandated at the federal level.

The School District of Palm Beach County OPPOSES:

- Funding formula changes that divert funds from traditional public schools.
- Provisions that would divert substantial federal dollars into competitive grant programs.
- Creating new programs that divert funds from high-need public schools, specifically any private school voucher program that lacks the same level of academic and financial accountability in which traditional public schools are currently governed.

In addition to the priorities listed above, the District will continue to monitor:

- Federal funding for school meals, including the extension of relevant USDA waivers in light of COVID-19.
- Federal funding that would support efforts by the School District of Palm Beach County to establish a SDPBC Tech Center entity.
- Federal language on test reforms and/or academic waivers issued by the United States Department of Education (USDOE).
- The status of the J-1 Visa program.