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U.S. Department of Education



ACHIEVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- » Accelerate learning for every student
- » Deliver a comprehensive and rigorous education for every student

U.S. Department of Education



**BOLDLY IMPROVE
LEARNING CONDITIONS**

- » Eliminate the educator shortage for every school
- » Invest in every student's mental health and well-being

U.S. Department of Education



**CREATE PATHWAYS FOR
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

- » Ensure every student has a pathway to college and a career
- » Provide every student with a pathway to multilingualism

U.S. Department of Education



**INCREASE COLLEGE
AFFORDABILITY AND COMPLETION**

- » Fix a broken student loan system
- » Invest in inclusive student success

Achieve Academic Excellence: Accelerate Learning for Every Student

- Let's help all students reach new heights of academic achievement.
- Our students can't wait.
 - The pandemic brought once-in-a-generation interruptions to all students' learning, but it made persistent gaps in opportunity and achievement worse for underserved students.
 - Long-term federal data show all students' test scores declined in math. But Black students' test scores decreased by **13 points**—nearly **three times** that of white students.
 - Even before the pandemic, **30 countries** outperformed the U.S. in math at the high school level.
 - And on average, all U.S. students need the equivalent of **4 months** of additional instruction in reading to catch up to pre-pandemic achievement levels.
 - This is even more urgent for our younger learners. Research shows students who don't read on grade level by third grade are **four times** more likely to drop out of high school.



Achieve Academic Excellence: Deliver a Well-Rounded Education

- Let's make sure all students can thrive academically and compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow by providing them with a high-quality, comprehensive, and rigorous education.
- This isn't a "nice-to-have" for our students. It's a "must do." Here are a few reasons why:
 - Research shows when students have access to rich learning experiences across the spectrum of education, they are more likely to be engaged in school. Get **better** grades. Earn **higher** test scores. And attend school **more**.
 - About **half** of entering college students need extra help and extra coursework because their K-12 schools failed to adequately prepare them with core knowledge and skills across subjects.
 - Employers in **ALL** fields report that they need workers with cross-cutting skills.



Boldly Improve Learning Conditions: Eliminate the Educator Shortage

- Let's give our students the very best. Every student should have access to outstanding, well-prepared, well-supported educators who reflect the diversity of the students they serve.
- But in **just three months** in early 2020, communities lost **9%** of all local public education jobs due to the pandemic. Thanks to historic investments through the American Rescue Plan, we are now down only about **1%** of all public education jobs relative to before the pandemic, and down **2%** for teacher jobs. But our schools still need to be fully staffed with educators who can meet students' needs.
 - Our schools were already short an estimated **100,000** fully certified teachers before the pandemic.
 - Schools with high percentages of students of color had teachers who were **three times** more likely to be uncertified, and about **70%** more likely to be inexperienced.
 - And while students of color represent more than half of students, only about **20%** of teachers are people of color.
 - Part of addressing educator shortages means paying teachers appropriately for the vital work they do. But teachers earn roughly **\$445 less** per week than similarly educated professionals.



Boldly Improve Learning Conditions: Invest in Students' Mental Health

- Let's acknowledge that in the face of an unprecedented national mental health crisis worsened by the pandemic, America's children and youth need support *now*.
- The urgency of this work couldn't be greater:
 - Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has issued a warning, declaring that mental health challenges are having “**devastating effects**” on young people.
 - Suicide is now the **second leading cause of death** for youth ages 10 to 24.
 - 11.5% of youth are experiencing **major depression**, and nearly 60% have not received **any** mental health treatment.
 - Nearly **every state** reports shortages in school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists, but students are **six times** more likely to get the mental health supports they need when services are provided in school.



Create Pathways for Global Engagement: Unlock College and Career Success

- Let's transform how our nation's high schools prepare students to thrive.
- We must further connect our education and workforce systems to unlock pathways to postsecondary credentials and social and economic mobility. This is critical when:
 - More than **70% of jobs** require education or training beyond high school. But postsecondary enrollment is **declining** at a time when the need for credentials and training is increasing.
 - Currently, **four years** after high school, **1 in 10 young adults** is neither working nor enrolled in college.
 - **90%** of employers report that experience in an internship, apprenticeship, or work-study program would make them likelier to consider hiring a candidate for a job.
 - Dual enrollment programs that allow students to gain practical skills and earn college credits while in high school have been shown to **increase** high school **graduation rates** and **college enrollment** and **success**.



Create Pathways to Global Engagement: Provide Multilingual Educational Opportunities

- Let's recognize that being multilingual is a superpower and provides advantages in our global society and economy.
- Unless we act with urgency to provide pathways to multilingualism for every student and to support the 5 million English learners in our public schools, these advantages will pass our students—and our nation—by.
 - There is a **high demand** for foreign language skills among U.S. employers (**90%**) with projections that this need only will continue to grow in the coming years.
 - But only **20% of Americans** can converse in two or more languages, while **56%** of those in European countries can do so.
 - Studies show people who develop strong language skills in a home language as well as in English earn, on average, **\$5,000 more** every year than those who lose their home language and speak exclusively English as adults.
 - Research also shows that learning two or more languages is **good for the brain**—with greater openness to other languages and to new learning itself.



Increase College Affordability and Completion: Fix a Broken Student Loan System

- Higher education should be a valuable investment that helps students climb the economic ladder and build rewarding careers.
- Some students are driven into unaffordable debt by dishonest colleges peddling worthless degrees. Others have struggled to repay their loans due to a broken, unaffordable student loan system.
- Our policies aim to hold colleges accountable for high costs and poor outcomes, transform how families finance college education in this country, and ensure that postsecondary education delivers real value to students in the form of higher wages and brighter futures.

Our Strategy:

- Implement the new SAVE plan, which reduces undergraduate loan payments by half.
- Reduce loan payments to \$0 per month for any borrower who earns less than about \$32,000 a year.
- Create a national public-private partnership campaign to promote enrollment in the plan, so students can save money on their loan repayments



Increase College Affordability and Completion: Invest in Inclusive Success

- In today's globally competitive world, most well-paying jobs— around 70%—require education beyond high school, whether that is an industry credential, certificate, or two-year or four-year college degree.
- Need colleges and universities that are committed to welcoming students of all backgrounds and income levels and investing in their successful attainment of college degrees and credentials.
- By investing in inclusive college excellence, we can achieve more equitable outcomes; propel more students to graduate into well-paying jobs and rewarding careers; and build stronger, more prosperous communities

Our Strategy:

- Host summits and release playbooks to elevate best practices in using data, ensuring the success of transfer students, and providing wrap-around supports to students.
- Award \$50 million in new Postsecondary Success Grants to better establish and promote evidence-based practices for student completion.
- Expand the College Scorecard to provide better information to students, families, institutions, and states to highlight inclusive colleges with strong student outcomes



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