

Transforming Education for the Future Act

Background: The American education system has experienced significant turbulence during the past decade, including the mismanagement of the Department of Education under Secretary DeVos; the devastating effects of COVID-19 on students, educators, and families; the rise of generative AI; the dramatic increase of cellphone and social media use; and most recently the attempted dismantling of the Department of Education and federal supports for public schools under the second Trump administration. Recent scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show that reading and math performance remain below pre-pandemic levels, with persistent achievement gaps by student race, income, and geography.

The urgency is clear: we can't go back – we must move forward. The Transforming Education for the Future Act will create the transformational change that American education needs: strengthening public education, putting kids first, and reclaiming the promise President Lyndon B. Johnson made when he first signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law.

The bill will:

- **Emphasize a Well-Rounded Education for All Students**
 - Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) so children with disabilities get the free and appropriate education services they need and deserve.
 - Promote hands-on project-based learning and inspire creativity and critical thinking by expanding access to career and technical education, arts, civics, humanities, and more.
 - Reduce state and federal reliance on standardized test scores and expand the use of multiple high-quality measures to capture a more accurate picture of student achievement.
- **Support Educators and Learning**
 - Enact policies to address discrimination and bias in K-12 schools, uphold civil rights, and address racial segregation.
 - Strengthen the educator pipeline through historic investments in educator pay, improved working conditions, and ample resources for educators and staff.
 - Fund high-quality education research and development and promote transformational, evidence-based practices for student success and wellbeing.

- **Address Socioeconomic Barriers to Learning**

- Triple funding for Title I to better serve students from disadvantaged backgrounds and the schools that educate them.
- Establish free, universal preschool for all three- and four-year-old children through a federal-state partnership.
- Eliminate stigma and reduce bureaucracy by making school breakfasts and lunches free for all children, provide summer meals and summer EBT, and streamline and expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Repeal the federal school voucher program, restore funding and staff to the Department of Education so the federal government can effectively serve all students in all public schools.