



# ASBO INTERNATIONAL **U.S. LEGISLATIVE AGENDA** 2022-2023

- Education Funding
- School Infrastructure & Safety
- Child Nutrition
- Health Care & Labor

# ABOUT ASBO INTERNATIONAL

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is a nonprofit organization that provides programs, resources, services, and a global network to school business professionals who are passionate about quality education. We promote the highest standards of school business management, the effective use of resources to support student learning, and professional growth.

## School business officials are key decision makers in school systems

who manage K-12 budgeting, purchasing, facility operations and maintenance, human resources, technology, transportation, food service, healthcare, and other areas of education business and operations.

## ASBO International members hold titles such as:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Business Manager
- Assistant Superintendent
- Treasurer
- Director of Facilities, Food Services, Technology, or Transportation

[asbointl.org](https://asbointl.org)

**Strong state and federal support are critical for schools to address rising student academic, social-emotional, mental health, and other needs after COVID-19.** While schools are grateful for federal ESSER funds to respond to the pandemic, this one-time infusion of emergency aid is insufficient to address years of underinvestment in education and longer-term needs beyond September 2024.

Districts are spending ESSER funds strategically by investing in technology and broadband for students, mitigating COVID-19, addressing learning loss, providing mental health services, and implementing targeted programs to help students who need extra support.

However, labor shortages, supply issues, and rising educational costs present significant challenges for districts when trying to spend sustainably. Inflation is a major concern, since, despite record education investments noted in the President's FY23 Budget, education funding would barely exceed its 2011 level after adjusting for inflation.

**POTUS FY23 Budget Requests Record Education Funding (Nearly Equals 2011 Inflation-Adjusted Funding Level)**  
*(Shows ED Discretionary Funding in USD Billions.)*



Source: Adapted from the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), [cef.org](https://cef.org).

Learn more about district ESSER spending at [asbointl.org/ESSERstories](https://asbointl.org/ESSERstories).

# HOW CAN YOU HELP STUDENTS & SCHOOLS?

## SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

- **Fully fund** IDEA and increase Title I funding to help schools provide an equitable education for all students.
- **Prioritize** funds for ESSA formula grants (Titles I, II, III, IV, and V) over competitive grants to support high-need students, high-quality educators, extracurricular programs, and rural schools.
- **Ensure** public dollars fund public schools. Oppose private vouchers that funnel taxpayer dollars into unaccountable schools.
- **Increase** fiscal flexibility and reduce administrative burdens so schools can allocate more resources to educating students (e.g., maintenance of effort and equity, excessive data collections, etc.).

## SUPPORT STRONG INVESTMENTS IN SAFE, HEALTHY, AND MODERN SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE.

- **Support** direct federal and state investment, grants, and partnerships to finance facility construction, renovation, repair, and maintenance.
- **Help** schools address environmental and public health issues, improve school safety and climate, and provide inclusive facilities that meet all students' needs.
- **Strengthen** funding for the federal E-Rate and Emergency Connectivity Fund programs to invest in broadband infrastructure and “fix the homework gap” for students without quality access.
- **Update** and streamline FEMA's Public Assistance program to adequately address different kinds of disasters so that schools can effectively respond to community needs.

## SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS AND EXPAND ACCESS FOR STUDENTS.

- **Reduce** and simplify regulations for nutrition programs to reduce administrative costs and burdens and increase federal reimbursement rates for meals to reflect the actual cost of feeding students.
- **Provide** non-regulatory support to help schools address unpaid meal debt issues.
- **Oppose** nutrition program funding cuts, block grants, and spending caps. These policies cannot account for economic recessions or rising poverty, enrollment, and food costs.
- **Strengthen** the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to help schools feed students affordable and nutritious meals.

## SUPPORT DISTRICTS IN ADDRESSING RISING HEALTH AND LABOR COSTS AND STAFFING SHORTAGES

- **Support** strong federal investments to strengthen labor pipelines and qualified candidate pools in the K-12 sector so that schools can recruit, hire, train, and retain high-quality staff.
- **Support** extra funding to help schools address mounting social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues that have emerged during COVID-19; oppose funding cuts and block grants for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- **Provide** adequate funding, support, training, and resources for districts to implement federal healthcare and labor regulations.
- **Sensibly reform** regulations to reduce administrative costs and burdens (e.g., change the ACA definition of full-time to 35 hours/week, provide flexibility with insurance coverage for substitute staff, and implement reasonable overtime pay rules).

Learn more at [asbointl.org/Legislative](https://asbointl.org/Legislative).

# LET'S CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Together, we can help school communities recover from COVID-19 and provide students with the resources they need to be happy, healthy, and successful. ASBO International and its members are ready to partner with policymakers on identifying solutions and opportunities to address the challenges facing K-12 education today. By combining our knowledge in school finance and operations with your ability to create positive change through policy, we can provide a brighter future for our children.



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