



2020 Legislative Priorities

CORE PRIORITIES

- Ensuring sufficient funds for K-12 and higher education during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to operate schools safely
- Investing in and strengthening the profession of teaching
- Keeping K-12 public funds in public education
- Revolutionizing educational systems and practices to better serve all learners, ensuring [social justice](#) and equity for all students, especially students of color, those with disabilities, immigrant students, and LGBTQIA+ students
- [Increasing the federal investment](#) in education from pre-school through graduate school

Next COVID-19 Relief Bill

- Quickly pass legislation to support K-12 and higher education so educators can safely and effectively serve students during the pandemic, including funding levels of at least
 - \$345 billion in an Education Stabilization Fund, including \$175 billion for K-12 schools and \$137 billion for higher education including HBCUs, tribal colleges, and MSIs as reflected in [S.4112](#)
- Include investing funds in a continued high-quality pipeline of educators with a focus on shortage areas, such as special education, STEM, and ELL, and diversification of the workforce:
 - \$100 million for Teacher Quality Partnership Grants under Title II of HEA
 - \$300 million for Personnel Preparation under Part D of IDEA
 - \$100 million for the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence in HEA
- For Student Financial AID
 - Double the amount of the TEACH grants from \$4,000 to \$8,000 per year



AACTE WASHINGTON WEEK

Virtual Conference
SEPTEMBER 2020



- Ensure that accrual of interest rates for TEACH grants begins only when a recipient can no longer complete their service obligation, rather than at the time of the grant award
- To ensure connectivity to support online learning in K-12 and higher education, invest \$5 billion in the Emergency Connectivity Fund

FY 2021 Appropriations

Increase investments in programs that prepare America's education workforce, particularly to diversify it and address shortage areas. Congress is urged to fund the following:

- [Teacher Quality Partnership Grants](#) at \$80 million (Title II, Part A of the Higher Education Act)
- [Special Education Personnel Preparation](#) at \$100 million (Part D-2 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act at \$2.5 billion
- [Institute of Education Sciences](#) (IES) at \$650 million (ESRA, Title I of P.L. 107-279)

Higher Education Act

Support a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that includes the following:

- A significant expansion and revision of **Title II: Teacher Quality Enhancement** to include the following:
 - Grants to institutions of higher education in the areas of Teacher Quality Partnerships, Recruitment and Completion Grants, Retention of Teachers Grants, School Leader Professional Development Grants and Faculty Professional Development and Training Grants; authorized at \$500 million
 - Formula grants to states to create dual certification programs, develop career ladders for educators, strengthen certification and credentialing, develop equitable state approval systems for alternative providers and higher education, assess workforce needs of PK-12, design and



AACTE WASHINGTON WEEK

Virtual Conference
SEPTEMBER 2020



- implement statewide pre-service residencies, create initiatives to diversify the workforce; authorized at \$500 million
- Inclusion of programs currently authorized and updated in [H.R. 4674](#): Well-Rounded Teaching Grants, the Graduate Fellowships to Prepare Faculty in High Need Areas at Colleges of Education and the Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins Center of Excellence
- No funds under Title II may be used to support a program or system that leads to a full teacher or leader credential for participants who have not earned at least a B.A. degree and have been prepared to be a profession-ready teacher or leader
- Streamline data collection
- **TEACH grants**
 - Double the amount of the grant from \$4,000 per year to \$8,000 per year.
 - Ensure that accrual of interest rates for TEACH grants begins only when a recipient can no longer complete their service obligation, rather than at the time of the grant award.
 - Allow undergraduate TEACH eligibility for a fifth year to obtain additional endorsements and licenses.
 - Provide for a gradual accrual of TEACH grants for students who complete some, but not all, of their service obligation. For example, one year of service accounts for one-quarter of accrual of a recipient's benefits.
 - Impose a maximum threshold on participating institutions for TEACH Grant conversions. Institutions that fail the threshold for three consecutive years would lose eligibility to participate for three years.
 - Do not permit TEACH grants to be used for those seeking an Associates degree as a terminal degree.
- **Loan Forgiveness**
 - Strengthen the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) program, the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program and fund the Loan Forgiveness for Service in Areas of National Need program to more effectively support teachers.