edtrust 30 Years

A Nation of Promise: Legislative Addendum

The *Nation of Promise* agenda is designed to expand opportunity for every student. This document is designed to highlight congressional bills that support some of its priorities, while acknowledging more legislative work is needed to actualize every idea in *A Nation of Promise*. We invite members of Congress, their staff, and partners to contact EdTrust to discuss and support these bills and our agenda in the 120th Congress. The bills are grouped by the six pillars of *A Nation of Promise*'s agenda below (bill numbers are from 119th Congress unless noted):

Unlock the Promise for Every Student

Every student develops the skills to become capable and confident readers, writers, and mathematicians.

- **READ ACT**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA), **H.R. 10031**; Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), **S. 4689**
  - **Summary:** Strengthens federal literacy policy by aligning federal literacy grants, research, teacher preparation, and instruction with the science of reading and targets funds to states with the lowest reading scores on NAEP.

- **PATHS to Tutor Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), **H.R. 6532**; Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), **S. 3406**
  - **Summary:** Creates a grant program supporting partnerships among teacher preparation programs, school districts, and community organizations to expand high-quality tutoring in high-need and hard-to-staff schools.

Share the Promise with Every Student

Every student's needs and aspirations are known, and shared responsibility leads to their success.

- **College Transparency Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), **H.R. 4806**; Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), **S. 2511**
  - **Summary:** Establishes a federal postsecondary student data system to provide more comprehensive information about college enrollment, completion, costs, and outcomes while maintaining privacy protections.

- **New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), **H.R. 6419**; Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), **S. 5444**
  - **Summary:** Establishes a National Center for Advanced Development in Education within the Institute of Education Sciences to support innovative, high-impact education research and develop evidence-based tools to improve student learning and close achievement gaps, while also strengthening state longitudinal data systems.

- **Protecting Students from Worthless Degrees Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), **H.R. 9748**; Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), **S. 5021**
  - **Summary:** Establishes accountability requirements for higher education programs receiving federal student aid, including measures related to graduates' earnings and student debt to provide students with information about program outcomes and limit federal aid eligibility for programs that fail to meet applicable performance standards.

Protect the Promise for Every Student

Every student is safe, supported, and seen.

- **Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), **H.R. 2739**; Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), **S. 5468**
  - **Summary:** Redirects federal funding away from police presence in schools and toward evidence-based, trauma-informed counseling and other supportive services for students.

- **Protecting Our Students in Schools Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), **H.R. 3265**; Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), **S.5470**
  - **Summary:** Prohibits corporal punishment in schools receiving federal funding and establishes related protections for students.

- **Ending PUSHOUT Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), **H.R. 2738**; Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), **S. 1338**
  - **Summary:** Addresses exclusionary school discipline practices and reduces the loss of instructional time and school pushout by banning discriminatory or overly punitive discipline for entities receiving grants, while strengthening existing data collection.

- **Keeping All Students Safe Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), **H.R. 6617**; Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), **S. 3448**
  - **Summary**: Prohibits dangerous seclusion and restraint discipline practices in schools, and provides grants to invest in professional development, training, and certification for effective, evidence-based school climate policies.

- **Full-Service Community School Expansion Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), **H.R. 8752**; Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), **S. 4504**
  - **Summary:** Expands and improves the federal Full-Service Community Schools program, supporting partnerships between schools and community organizations to provide integrated services such as healthcare, family support, and other resources that promote student success and well-being.

- **Mentoring to Succeed Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), **H.R. 811**; Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), **S. 299**
  - **Summary:** Establishes a competitive federal grant program to create, expand, or strengthen youth mentoring programs while emphasizing social and emotional learning, employability skills, career exploration, work-based learning, and other opportunities.

- **Creating Positive College Campus Racial Climates Act**
  - **Lead sponsor/bill number:** Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA), **H.R. 10534 (118th)**
  - **Summary:** Requires institutions of higher education participating in federal student-aid programs to conduct surveys measuring students' experiences with discrimination and use the resulting data to assess campus racial climate, while strengthening existing data collection.

Deliver the Promise for Every Student

Every student is taught by well-prepared, supported, and diverse educators.

- **Strengthening Educator Workforce Data Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Eric Sorensen (D-IL), **H.R. 8636**; Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), **S. 4449**
  - **Summary:** Improves federal data collection and reporting on teachers and principals, including workforce characteristics and staffing, to help policymakers understand educator workforce trends and disparities.

- **Quality Educator Partnership Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC), **H.R. 10530**; Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), **S. 5549**
  - **Summary:** Establishes a federal strategy to strengthen the educator workforce by supporting partnerships among educator preparation programs, schools, and state and local agencies; expands educator recruitment, preparation, mentoring, and professional development; and provides grants to help states address workforce shortages, improve educator retention, and develop sustainable educator workforce strategies.

Carry the Promise Into College, Career, and Life

Every student is on a pathway to a fulfilling career and meaningful participation in civic life.

- **Advanced Coursework Equity Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX), **H.R. 9698**; Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), **S. 4988**
  - **Summary:** Promotes greater equity in access to advanced coursework and programs at elementary and secondary schools by authorizing federal grants to implement innovative practices to expand enrollment and train educators, among other purposes.

- **Postsecondary Student Success Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM), **H.R. 9300**; Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), **S. 4778**
  - **Summary:** Authorizes federal grants for evidence-based student-success programs designed to increase postsecondary enrollment, retention, and completion among high-need students.
- **Opportunities for Success Act**
  - **Lead sponsor/bill number:** Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), **H.R. 6606**
  - **Summary:** Reauthorizes and expands Federal Work-Study by increasing funding, prioritizing work-based learning, and directing more resources toward Pell Grant recipients and students with greater financial need.

Fund the Promise for Every Student

Every student has access to high-quality education and workforce training, no matter their family's income or ZIP code.

- **Keep Public Funds in Public Schools Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI), **H.R. 9289**; Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ), **S. 4297**
  - **Summary:** Repeals the Federal Voucher Tax Credit established under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
- **Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), **H.R. 9414**; Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI), **S. 4859**
  - **Summary:** Strengthens and expands the Pell Grant program, including increasing federal support for Pell Grants and changing the program's structure to provide greater assistance to eligible students.
- **Debt-Free College Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI), **H.R. 10455**; Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), **S. 5403**
  - **Summary:** Establishes state-federal partnerships to enable students to attend in-state public institutions without debt and extends federal Pell Grant eligibility to eligible DREAMer students.
- **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), **H.R. 1061**; Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), **S. 455**
  - **Summary:** Limits immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations, including schools, health care facilities, and places of worship, and clarifies the authority of immigration officers at those locations
- **IDEA Full Funding Act**
  - **Lead sponsors/bill numbers:** Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), **H.R. 2598**; Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), **S. 1277**
  - **Summary:** Requires regular, mandatory increases in IDEA funding until the federal government covers 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education.