



National Call to Action



We Rise Together!

Join the NEA in demanding that Congress Take Action to Ensure that Students & Communities Rise Together by:

- Stabilizing education funding for students in our communities' schools and campuses. (\$175B)
- Building bridges for educational opportunity for students and stronger communities
- Supporting the safety, health and well-being of students and educators

Go to www.educatingthroughcrisis.org

1. **Incorporate legislative agenda into all member communications and social media** - a call to contact members of Congress in support of the primary demand for a \$175 billion Education Stabilization Fund, as well as funding to build bridges for educational opportunity for students and stronger communities, and support the safety and health and well-being of educators and students. www.educatingthroughcrisis.org
2. As part of a coordinated national press strategy, **schedule statewide Virtual Events, like RedForEd Rallies, Face Book Live during the week of May 18th**
3. Mobilize historic levels of members to participate in the **Grassroots National Call to Action Tele-Town Hall on Thursday May 14th** (7:00 – 8:00 pm ET). REGISTER AT www.nea.org/actiontownhall
4. **Maximize outreach to all members – not just our usual activists** – to drive them to www.educatingthroughcrisis.org to contact their Members of Congress
5. **Ask local school boards to pass resolutions** supporting the demands, including contacting their Members of Congress. Ask local superintendents to contact MOCs in support as well
6. **Schedule 1 -2 additional state Member Tele-Town Halls with Members of Congress during the month of May.** Members to share stories about the potential impacts locally if Congress doesn't act, articulate the specific demands on Congress, and push for specific commitments from the MoCs.

Core Demands

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all our lives in myriad ways. All our lives will change in ways we don't even know yet. But we cannot and will not just sit and wring our hands. We must plan, prepare, and mobilize to advocate for what we know students and educators need. NEA members are coming together with families, community leaders and other activists to demand that Congress act to ensure that students and communities **Rise Together** by:

Stabilizing education funding for students in our communities' schools and campuses (\$175B)

- State and local budgets are expected to see the deepest cuts in history as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, placing students, educators, and public schools at great risk. We must make sure Congress invests in the cornerstone of our democracy—public education.
- We're calling on Congress to provide at least **\$175 billion** to distribute to states and local districts, allocated by formula based on poverty, to fill COVID-19 budget gaps that will hurt students in schools and on campuses.
- Members of Congress must reject Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' "microgrants" and other voucher schemes intended to starve public education and siphon funding from students who depend on their local public schools.

Building bridges for educational opportunities for students and stronger communities

- COVID-19 has brought the stark reality of the digital divide front and center. More than 10 million K-12 students, living in poverty and in rural areas, are at risk of falling behind their peers because they don't have internet access at home and are denied the opportunities to learn that are afforded their peers.
- We demand that Congress provide funding for the highly successful **E-rate program** which helps schools ensure Wi-Fi hotspots and connected devices for K-12 students who do not have internet access and connected devices at home.
- Congress must appropriate funds to develop programs to help reach and support students who have been denied virtual opportunities to learn as a result of COVID-19.
- The 20/21 school year will be like no other in history. Congress must provide funds to help educators connect 19/20 instruction and learning opportunities to 20/21 instruction and learning opportunities, using collaboratively developed modified school calendars and other extended learning components.

Supporting the safety, health and well-being of students and educators

- Teachers, Education Support Professionals (ESPs), and other school staff who interact with students and their families, including food service workers, custodians, security officers, bus drivers, and others must have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and training to protect students, colleagues, families, and themselves.
- The safety and well-being of students and educators when they return to school cannot be compromised. The needs will be varied, including mental health and nutritional supports, training for loss and trauma related to the COVID-19 crisis.
 - Expand funding to community-based health care (inclusive of mental health services) with incentives to partner with schools to expand care -(targeted to communities with high rates of student households living in poverty)
- Our concern is for the safety of students and all who work with them in schools and classrooms. We must make sure that people who work in our schools have the proper training and guidance on mitigating and preventing the spread of the coronavirus.
- We demand that Congress task the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) with developing emergency standards to help protect frontline workers at risk of contracting coronavirus.
- We demand that monthly federal student loan payments and interest accrual, including commercially held Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) and Perkins Loans, be canceled for the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency.
- Investment in housing supports for households with school-aged children

**We can't open the economy until we open schools,
and schools can't open if we don't give students and educators what they need to succeed.**