

The Bloomington School Board appreciates the federal government's ongoing investment in public education, which has been essential in supporting student success. However, Bloomington Public Schools, like many districts, continues to face financial challenges to provide the quality education every student deserves. The School Board urges federal policymakers to prioritize increased funding and resources to ensure every student is empowered and equipped to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Summary of Priorities

Funding for Students with Disabilities

- Strengthen Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Fulfill promise to fund 40% of costs
- Promote collaboration between families and schools to serve students with disabilities



School-Based Mental Health Services

- Recognize and address challenges of mental health issues on well-being of students and staff
- Increase federal funding allocated to mental health services to create supportive spaces for learning

Continue & Strengthen Title Funds

- Reauthorize Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- Fully fund current law to support goals of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



2025 Federal Legislative Priorities

Secure Full Funding of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Bloomington School Board urges federal policymakers to strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help local school districts educate children with disabilities. Congress must fulfill its promise to fund at least 40% of the excess costs of educating eligible students and provide flexibility for districts to meet funding requirements.

IDEA should be updated and reauthorized to promote collaboration between parents/caregivers and schools in identifying and serving students with disabilities, streamline due process systems to focus resources on student services, and remove burdensome requirements that do not directly impact educational outcomes.

Increase Access to School-Based Mental Health Services

The youth mental health epidemic within the public school system demands urgent attention, adequate funding, and comprehensive action. The Bloomington School Board urges federal policymakers to recognize and address the impact and challenges posed by mental health issues on the well-being of students and staff. The 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was an important start, but is rapidly depleting.

A substantial increase in federal funding allocated to mental health services in public schools is crucial to creating a supportive environment for learning. Increased funding will allow districts to hire more mental health professionals like counselors, psychologists, social workers or contracted community mental health professionals to provide the support students need to be successful, learn and grow.

Advocate for Continued Title Funds

The Bloomington School Board urges federal policymakers to strengthen the Title Acts by reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and to fully fund the current law to support states and local school districts in achieving the goals of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).