

2026 IASB Federal Legislative Priorities

Fulfillment of State and Federal Funding Commitments

At the federal level, much needed education funding has been delayed, reduced, and eliminated. In addition, Congress has yet to meet the commitment it made upon passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to cover 40% of the cost to educate students with disabilities. These services support some of our most vulnerable students, and districts are mandated through state and federal laws to provide them. Federal legislators must provide stable and adequate funding that keeps their commitments to support students and local schools.

Related Federal Legislation/Programs:

- Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations
- IDEA Full Funding Legislation
- Federal Nutrition Programs
- School Based Health Services through Medicaid Program

Support for Student Achievement Tools: Assessment, Accountability, and Evidence-Based Research

The September 2025 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) data show math and reading scores that are the lowest ever recorded. In [Foundational Principles of Effective Governance](#), IASB teaches that a primary task for board members is to use assessment data to evaluate progress for students. The federal government supports this essential responsibility by providing longitudinal national and state data through NAEP and statewide district-to-district comparability data through fair and balanced state assessment and accountability systems. The federal government also supports local school boards by engaging in federally funded research to improve student achievement. This research helps to ensure that districts' limited funds go toward efforts that will generate the greatest impact for students. Federal legislators and administrators must continue to provide these critical tools for school board members in their efforts to drive achievement for students.

Related Federal Legislation and Programs:

- Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations
- NAEP
- State Assessment Grants
- Federally Funded Education Research