



## COVID-19 Education Coalition Urges Improvements, More Money in Final Version of the HEALS Act

**Washington, D.C., July 30, 2020** — The undersigned members of the COVID-19 Education Coalition offer the following statement on the [Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools \(HEALS\) Act](#):

We are deeply concerned with provisions of the HEALS Act, which proposes \$70 billion to support K-12 schools in navigating the fallout from the COVID-19 global pandemic, two-thirds of which is tied to the physical reopening of school buildings. With many districts unable to safely reopen at this time because of high community transmission rates, many schools stand to lose out on a substantial portion of the HEALS Act's promised resources, which they desperately need to ensure high-quality teaching and learning continues for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, the \$70 billion allocated to K-12 schools is far short of the funding that national experts estimate will be necessary to fully support educators, students, and families at this time, especially those from marginalized groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Many of our organizations [believe](#) that K-12 schools need between \$175 billion and \$200 billion.

Furthermore, we note that the HEALS Act fails to provide separate funding for a key priority: professional development for online learning. The spring 2020 transition to online learning was very challenging for multiple reasons, including the fact that many educators struggled to deliver instruction because they had not received adequate training. Now, with many districts electing to begin the school year fully or partially online, there is ample evidence pointing to the urgent need to support educators to deliver effective and equitable learning experiences. For example, [43 percent](#) of superintendents responded in a recent survey that they currently lack adequate instructional capacity for online learning, including teacher proficiency. Also, a [recent op-ed in TIME](#), authored by Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Ro Khanna, included comments from educators in Wisconsin and California about the impact of local budget cuts that they are facing on professional development opportunities. Most recently, a group of nearly 200 education researchers came together to [recommend](#) that schools provide teachers with the training they need to provide quality online learning environments.

Therefore, members of the COVID-19 Education Coalition urge members of Congress to work to improve the HEALS Act by adding funding for K-12 school education relief as well as specific funding to support professional development in online learning. To that end, the COVID-19 Education Coalition encourages Congress to incorporate in the final version of the HEALS Act provisions and funding levels contained in the [Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act](#) (CCCERA). That bill proposes \$175 billion in additional K-12 education stabilization funds, 20 percent of which must be set aside by school districts to address students' learning loss, including "providing professional development to educators and other staff on how to effectively implement distance learning." The CCCERA would provide funds critical to providing effective and equitable instruction for all students as school buildings remain closed.

###

### About the COVID-19 Education Coalition

The [COVID-19 Education Coalition](#) is a community of nonprofit organizations convened by ISTE and EdSurge to support the education field as learning moves online. The coalition is creating resources focused on these areas: policy & advocacy; centering equity; connectivity; international engagement; personalized learning; social emotional learning; safety, privacy and digital citizenship; and higher education.

## Members of the COVID-19 Education Coalition

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Student Assistance  
Arizona Technology in Education Association  
ASCD  
Association for Educational Communications and Technology  
Association for Middle Level Education  
Association of Teacher Educators  
Butler County Educational Service Center  
CAST  
Center for Black Educator Development  
CK-12 Foundation  
Consortium for School Networking  
Digital Promise  
Edcamp Foundation  
ETS  
Future of Privacy Forum  
Grantmakers for Education  
iCivics  
Illinois Digital Educators Alliance  
International Society for Technology in Education  
Jefferson Education Exchange  
LEAP Innovations  
Learning Ally  
Learning Forward  
LearnLaunch  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Council for the Social Studies  
National Council of Teachers of English  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Research Center for Distance Education and Technological Advancements  
National Rural Education Association  
National Science Teaching Association  
National Summer Learning Association  
National Technology Leadership Summit  
New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education  
Next Generation Learning Challenges  
New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education  
Phi Delta Kappan  
Project Tomorrow  
Quality Matters  
Relay  
State Educational Technology Directors Association  
Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education  
SHAPE America  
Student Data Privacy Consortium  
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
Team4Tech  
The Learning Accelerator  
Turnaround For Children  
Virginia Society for Technology in Education  
Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association