



**Washington, D.C. — September 5, 2017** — The Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium urges Congress to give immediate and bipartisan attention to the future of current and eligible participants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

As superintendents of some of the nation’s largest and most diverse school districts, we have a legal, professional, and moral responsibility to educate *all* children regardless of their background, including their immigration status. This includes “Dreamers,” people brought to this country at a young age who are seeking opportunities to strengthen themselves, their families, and their communities. Dreamers attend our schools and in some cases teach our students, working hard to achieve the American Dream and adding value to our schools and communities along the way.

Our schools will always remain open and welcoming to these students and teachers. However, today’s decision by the administration to terminate the DACA program raises a number of concerns and creates uncertainty for these hard-working members of our communities. Losing DACA protections could potentially disrupt their education or teaching careers and threaten their futures.

“We strongly urge Congress to take action to create stability and protection for Dreamers,” said Consortium Chair Dr. Aaron Spence, Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VA). “People cannot reach their full potential if they face an uncertain future.”

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### **About the Consortium**

The Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium is an invitational network of large, diverse, innovative, and leading suburban and countywide school districts dedicated to dramatically improving public education through collaboration, leadership, and advocacy. The Consortium envisions a public education system that ensures every student—regardless of background—realizes his or her full potential.

Together, the Consortium's 19 districts span 13 states from Washington to Florida, include 8 of the largest 25 school districts in the nation, enroll an average of 90,000 students, and educate a total of 1.8 million students. Members' growing and increasingly diverse student bodies reflect communities across America, with 58% students of color and 43% qualifying for free or reduced-cost lunch.

The Consortium is supported by [EducationCounsel](#) and operates in affiliation with [AASA](#), The School Superintendents Association.

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