



Washington, D.C. — March 29, 2017 — The Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium—a network of nineteen of the nation's largest and most highly-regarded school districts spanning thirteen states from Washington to Florida—issued the following statement in response to the cuts in education funding proposed in President Trump's FY18 budget blueprint as well as similar cuts recently reported as under consideration for FY17.

"Our schools, our teachers, and, most importantly, our students deserve our best as a nation," said Consortium Chair Dr. Aaron Spence, Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VA). "Cutting these federal funds would make it significantly harder for school districts to deliver on the promise of public education. The proposed cuts are particularly troubling because the eliminated funding is primarily targeted to support our most disadvantaged students and schools. The last thing we should do is take resources away from those who need them most."

Consortium Past Chair J. Alvin Wilbanks, CEO/Superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools (GA), stated: "As local education leaders, we take seriously our obligation to taxpayers to use all public funds responsibly and in ways supported by research and the best available evidence. We should focus on improving how we invest those limited funds rather than making deep cuts likely to undermine our efforts."

The Consortium strongly urges President Trump to reconsider these funding cuts and looks forward to working with Secretary DeVos to ensure all federal resources are invested wisely.

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About the Consortium

The Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium is a unique invitational network of some of the nation's most highly-regarded districts and district leaders, all of whom are committed to world-class learning for all students. 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.

Member districts include: Baltimore County Public Schools (MD), Beaverton School District (OR), Bellevue School District (WA), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (NC), Chesterfield County Public Schools (VA), Cobb County School District (GA), Fairfax County Public Schools (VA), Fulton County Schools (GA), Garland Independent School District (TX), Greenville County Schools (SC), Gwinnett County Public Schools (GA), Knox County Schools (TN), Mesa Public Schools (AZ), Montgomery County Public Schools (MD), Poway Unified School District (CA), The School District of Palm Beach County (FL), School District U-46 (IL), Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VA), and Wake County Public School System (NC).

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

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