

**Washington, D.C. — April 9, 2021 —** With the [initial details](#) of the President’s FY22 budget now [released](#), the [Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium](#) — a network of nineteen of the nation’s largest and most highly-regarded school districts spanning twelve states from Washington to Florida — applauds the administration’s deep commitment to public education. This commitment is particularly important this year as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to create unprecedented challenges for school districts and their students, staff, and communities.

The President’s FY22 discretionary funding request would build on the historic investments of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and bolster the ability of school districts nationwide to meet students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, especially the increased needs of students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and economic crisis. In the first three months of the new administration, President Biden and U.S. Education Secretary Cardona have affirmed commitments to ensuring that districts have the resources to respond effectively and equitably to both immediate and long-term needs. In addition to critical investments in domestic programs that support children and families beyond the PK-12 school setting, the President’s FY22 request would more than double the 2021 budget for high-poverty schools through Title I grants. Additional funding increases targeted for students with disabilities and the mental health needs of all children more broadly will be an important lifeline for district support and innovation during this critical year of recovery and acceleration.

“President Biden’s FY22 initial budget request sends a strong signal about the value we place in the next generation of Americans. Robust federal investments in education allow superintendents and educators to do more of what we know works for children and their families, particularly those who have been most adversely affected by the pandemic,” said Consortium Chair Jack Smith, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MD).

Cathy Moore, Consortium Vice-Chair and Superintendent of the Wake County Public School System (NC), echoed Dr. Smith’s support, stating that, “Federal support for public schools is more important now than ever, as school districts seek to leverage the current moment for reducing historical inequities and build even stronger local education systems than we had before the pandemic.”

The Consortium also appreciates the President’s inclusion of school construction and broadband access as priorities of the administration’s recent infrastructure proposal, the [American Jobs Plan](#), a move that will enhance districts’ capacity to safely reopen schools while also helping ensure all students can continue to learn during any future disruptions to in-person instruction.

The Consortium strongly supports President Biden’s FY22 discretionary funding request, and looks forward to working with Secretary Cardona to ensure the prompt, planful, and equity-oriented implementation of all federal resources.

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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 12 states from Washington to Florida, include 8 of the largest 25 school districts in the nation, enroll an average of nearly 98,000 students, and educate a total of 1.85 million students. Members' growing and increasingly diverse student bodies reflect communities across America, with 63% of average student bodies being students of color and 40% qualifying for free or reduced-cost lunch.

Member districts include: Baltimore County Public Schools (MD), Beaverton School District (OR), Bellevue School District (WA), Boulder Valley School District (CO), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (NC), Chesterfield County Public Schools (VA), Cobb County School District (GA), Cumberland County Schools (NC), Fairfax County Public Schools (VA), Fulton County Schools (GA), Greenville County Schools (SC), Hamilton County Schools (TN), Mesa Public Schools (AZ), Montgomery County Public Schools (MD), School District U-46 (IL), Palm Beach County School District (FL), 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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