



## **ADVANCING DIGITAL EQUITY**

### **CoSN's CALL TO ACTION TO PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP AND THE NEW CONGRESS**

A deeply divisive and emotional election is over and the American voters have selected our next President. As a country, we need to come together now, put aside past differences, promote civil discourse and work to improve learning for all students.

During the ten weeks following the election, President-elect Trump's transition team will develop initial policy goals, identify senior government leaders, and establish fiscal year 2018 spending priorities. Congress will make detailed plans for the future, including crafting committee goals and calendars, sequencing legislative priorities, and crafting new policies and related messaging. The decisions made here in Washington will impact public education across the country in 2017 and beyond.

On behalf of the 13 million students served by our member institutions, CoSN will be an active voice working to strengthen the digital transformation and advance digital equity during this crucial time.

#### **POLICY PRIORITIES**

CoSN urges the new Administration and Congress to advance digital equity by adequately funding existing programs, increasing broadband access for all students and developing new policies to support education transformation with technology.

#### **1. Strengthen the Digital Transformation by Providing Robust Investments in Existing Programs**

The last Congress enacted Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – and now these programs must be adequately funded.

##### **We call upon the Congress and the new Administration to:**

- eliminate the “sequester” (mandatory spending caps)
- provide at least \$1.6 billion for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant for fiscal year 2018
- fully fund Title II (professional development for educators and school leaders)
- support other funding to promote the transition to digital learning, such as robust data use, high quality online assessment (including insuring assessment technology is sufficient and reliable), building the capacity of educators/leaders to protect student privacy, and developing and using open educational resources.

## **2. Increase Efforts to Invest in Infrastructure and Other Programs Providing High Capacity Broadband for All Students in School and at Home**

All students should have access to affordable, high capacity broadband by 2020 both at school and beyond if they are to achieve future success.

### **We call upon the Congress and the new Administration to:**

- ensure that the FCC successfully implements the 2014 E-rate reforms and the 2016 Lifeline update, while also exploring new opportunities for addressing the lack of broadband access in many low-income households.
- use the results of the Every Student Succeeds Act's (ESSA) required Homework Gap study as a basis for new policy and investment designed to promote 100% home broadband access for students.

## **3. Champion New Policies that Support Emerging Technology Solutions for Learning**

Education technology is rapidly changing and providing students with the digital tools and resources they need to be successful.

### **We call upon Congress and the new Administration to:**

- invest in research and development, including a focus on meeting the needs of schools and students with education technology.
- support emerging communications policies, such as pending decisions that may facilitate the transition to ultra-high speed 5G networks and increase the availability of new unlicensed spectrum.

### **CALL TO ACTION**

We call upon our members to advance digital equity by carrying this message to the new Administration and Congress. Your voice can help ensure education technology has a seat at the planning table during the upcoming Presidential and Congressional transition period. Please use CoSN's [advocacy tool](#) to e-mail your congressional delegation today.