



2018 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has identified the following objectives in order to accomplish its federal and state policy and advocacy work impacting PreK-16 teachers and schools:

- Promote policy that aligns with NCTE principles regarding high-quality literacy instruction
- Support policy that ensures equity for all students to learn reading, writing, literature, and language
- Inform policy that impacts professional learning for teachers of English and composition and supports the professionalization of educators

To support these objectives and ensure the 115th Congress hears what is important to our 25,000 members, NCTE will pursue the following priorities:

Promote policy that aligns with NCTE principles regarding high-quality literacy instruction.

Current Priorities

All students deserve high-quality literacy teaching and learning. As such, NCTE will be vigilant in advocating for policies that address

- Equal access to literacy education that is free of racism, bias, prejudice, and discrimination and supports the intellectual development and growth of all students from early childhood through university studies.
- Support for students that allows them to evaluate and use information so they can meet the challenges and opportunities of a global economy.
- Effective approaches to the teaching of reading and writing, aligned with current research in the field.

Support policy that ensures equity for all students to learn reading, writing, literature, and language.

Current Priorities

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Title I Funding: All students deserve equitable access to rich and compelling learning opportunities and transformative curricula. Title I of ESSA must be fully funded to achieve this purpose.

Title II Funding: Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Funding provides states with the flexibility to select the

interventions necessary to improve literacy instruction for all content areas for students from early childhood through high school. It must remain fully funded to support this work.

Higher Education Act (HEA)

Title IV HEA Funding: Access to postsecondary education for at-risk students is made possible in many cases through federal student grant and loan programs. These must continue to be fully funded.

Inform policy that impacts professional learning for teachers of English and composition and supports the professionalization of educators.

Current Priorities

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Title II Funding: All students deserve fully qualified teachers who have the resources and professional learning opportunities necessary to be current in their practice. Title II of ESSA makes this possible and must be fully funded to achieve these aims.

Higher Education Act (HEA)

Title II Funding: Funding for schools of education is essential for strengthening teacher recruitment and improving teacher preparation. Title II of HEA must be fully funded to provide grants that enable institutions of higher education to continue this work. Teacher candidates also need access to grants such as the Teach Grants to support their becoming a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a school that serves students from low-income families.

Title II Reauthorization: As the HEA undergoes reauthorization, it is essential that Congress maintain, strengthen, and expand Title II of the law. The new law should

- a. Include provisions that prepare teachers across the curriculum to advance reading and writing and that prepare teachers in all disciplines to work with English learners and nonstandard or global English speakers. This may include
 - i. adding a focus on comprehensive literacy,
 - ii. adding writing specialists to the list of high-needs teachers, and
 - iii. ensuring all teacher mentors maintain active status with a professional disciplinary organization.
- b. Include provisions that create stronger vertical connections in teacher preparation between high school and college reading, writing, and literacy programs to prepare graduates for careers in all fields, including STEM and business.