



RAISE THE BAR: Achieve Academic Excellence

Deliver a Comprehensive and Rigorous Education for Every Student



Let’s make sure all students can thrive academically, develop a lifelong love of learning, and compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow by providing them with a high-quality, comprehensive, and rigorous education in every school.

“Raise the Bar: Lead the World” is the U.S. Department of Education’s call to action to transform education and unite around what works—based on decades of experience and research—to advance educational equity and excellence. As part of our Raise the Bar efforts to achieve academic excellence, the Department is working to support states and districts as they deliver a comprehensive and rigorous education for every student.

A comprehensive approach to education is not a “nice-to-have” for our students; it’s a “must do.” It promotes broad learning experiences that include core academic subjects such as reading, math, science, history, and civics, but also art, world languages, and other subjects. Every child deserves a well-rounded, academically rigorous education that nurtures their intellect, wellbeing, and creativity, and that prepares them for success in school and beyond.



Keys to Delivering a Well-Rounded and Comprehensive Education to All Students

The research on the science of learning and development shows that students achieve better outcomes in school when they have access to rich and engaging educational experiences; strong relationships with caring adults; and supportive, nurturing, and welcoming learning environments. For students to thrive, they require access to a broad and challenging education that provides opportunities to build deep knowledge and useful life skills across many disciplines. However, access to a comprehensive and rigorous education is not equitable across all students and all communities.

Through continued investments and strategic actions in the areas below, the Department is supporting states and districts to expand access to a comprehensive and rigorous education for every student.



SUPPORT STATES AND DISTRICTS IN DELIVERING WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Support the full range of educational opportunities that promote students’ holistic learning, growth, and development, including through federal funding and disseminating information through webinars and summits



EXPAND ACCESS TO RIGOROUS COURSEWORK

Increase access to coursework that prepares students to be ready for college and careers by providing guidance to states and districts, sharing evidence-based resources with the field, and highlighting promising practices



FOCUS ON THE INSTRUCTIONAL CORE

Drive evidence-based supports that center the instructional core—which consists of engaged students, effective teaching, and quality content—through technical assistance, competitive grants, and other federal resources



ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT

Ensure that all students have access to supportive, inclusive learning environments that allow them to thrive in all aspects of their educational experience, including by protecting students’ civil rights in school

Visit [Raise the Bar: Achieve Academic Excellence](#) to read more about the specific strategies outlined here, connect to resources and technical assistance, and learn about federal grants that can support these strategies.