



What is the Public Schools Week campaign?

On March 25-29, 2019, [national education groups](#) representing teachers, principals, superintendents, parents and school board members are celebrating the achievements our public schools are making and honoring the significant contributions and accomplishments public school educators and education advocates bring every day to our public schools and their communities. Members of the Learning First Alliance are hosting the second annual Public Schools Week on Capitol Hill in Washington and in communities large and small across the U.S.

During Public Schools Week, groups representing LFA are inviting community members, lawmakers, parents and others into schools to see firsthand the wide array of programs and policies available to our students that will showcase excellence in teaching and learning.

The [Public Schools Week Toolkit](#) includes a calendar of events as well as messages, talking points, suggested social media messaging, info graphics and other information to help promote these activities. LFA members also will use #PublicSchoolProud throughout the year for positive messaging related to public education.

Key Messages for 2019:

We all must speak out about the value of public schools. With the mounting changes in the education landscape, Public Schools Week builds a platform for Americans to show their support.

- Strong public schools build the knowledge and skills young people need to succeed in the global, knowledge-based world. Public schools are providing more opportunities for more than 50 million students who are learning and growing inside our school buildings—so these young people can become college ready, career ready and life ready following high school graduation.
- We recognize that teachers, principals, and all the educators and support staff that serve in our public schools are key to helping our students succeed and our nation thrive.

Public schools are the centerpiece of the hopes and dreams of our families, and the growth and well-being for our communities. There is no better time than now to speak out about the value of public

education, the bedrock of our society. #PublicSchoolProud creates a platform for Americans to join together and express their support for public education.

- Nine out of every 10 students attend a public school. Public schools welcome every child—regardless of ability, race, wealth, language, country of origin, or needs. By strengthening the public school system we strengthen the democracy of our country.
- Supporting public schools today will build a stronger workforce of tomorrow. The future of our nation to produce in the manufacturing sphere, the farm, and in the information age will be based on the investments we make today in supporting public schools. Schools today are integrating the new ideas that are being explored by business and industry.
- Strong public schools are vital to our national security. Our military's success is dependent on members who can apply their knowledge and skills to navigate the increasingly complex tools that keep our country safe.

Public schools are providing a wider variety of opportunities that lead more students to success in postsecondary educations, careers, and in life.

- Public schools help more students become contributing citizens of their communities.
- Communities are stronger and schools are better when we all work together to support public education. As our public schools succeed, so too will our communities. The success of the future leaders of this great country critically depends on the support given to public education.
- The PDK International annual poll shows increasing support for neighborhood public schools, support for teachers and strong support for more funding and resources.

An educated America is a better America. Want a stronger nation? Support public education. It is where everyone has a chance to learn about the past, how to participate in society, and how to engage in a future that is rapidly changing – and needing their talents.

For more information, contact Sasha Pudelski, AASA advocacy director, at spudelski@aasa.org or Joetta Sack-Min, LFA communications consultant at sackminj@learningfirst.org. Advocates of public education are encouraged to join the conversation on social media by accessing the [#PublicSchoolProud](#) and [#PSW19](#) hashtags.