

EDUCATION

THINGS TO KNOW:

- **Only Bay Area member on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce**
- **Completed an Education Listening Tour, where he visited 18 schools at every school district in our community, and compiled a report on his findings**
- **Member of the Career and Technical Education Caucus**

SUMMARY OF POSITION

Mark understands that education is the single-most important investment a nation can make in its future. Throughout his career in public service, from his time as a local Head Start Commissioner to his current seat on the House Committee on Education and Labor, he has been an advocate for quality education for every student. From preschool to higher education and beyond, Congressman DeSaulnier values a public education, programs to support the “whole child,” accessible and affordable college opportunities for any students that wishes to attend, and ensuring that all students gain the skills they need to succeed in our rapidly changing workplace.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Children who attend preschool can better socialize, manage stress, solve problems, and **have higher job earnings later in life.**
- 51% of American public school students are living in poverty.
- Outstanding **student loan debt in the U.S. exceeds \$1.3 trillion** with **African American college graduates owing \$7,400 more** in student loans on average than their white peers upon graduating.
- 7 million, or **14% of K-12 public school students receive special education services.**
- The U.S. has an **84.6% high school graduation rate**, the highest in history.
- **Millennials are on track to be the most educated generation in history**, with 39% receiving at least a bachelor’s degree.

WORKING FOR YOU

Spearheaded Creation of Statewide Family Engagement Centers

Research shows that students with involved families are more likely to earn higher grades, attend school regularly, and graduate. Congressman DeSaulnier authored the bipartisan Family Engagement in Education Act (H.R. 1194) with Rep. Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (R-PA), to create the Statewide Family Engagement Center (SFEC) grant program, which helps states and school districts promote family involvement in a student’s education. The SFEC grant program was signed into law by President Obama and recently received \$15 million in federal funding.

Authored Legislation to Support Young Children with Disabilities

While there has been advancement in supports for students with disabilities in elementary and secondary school, early education policy, like support for preschool students, has not kept pace. That’s why Congressman DeSaulnier introduced the Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act (H.R. 4107), which would restore full funding for education and services for children with disabilities age 0-5.

Sponsored the College Affordability Act

The cost of college is skyrocketing making the possibility of a higher education out of reach for huge swaths of American families. As the ability to go to college becomes increasingly dependent on an individual’s socioeconomic status and higher lifetime earnings become evermore contingent on a college degree, income inequality and wealth disparities in our country only deepen. To address these troubling trends, Congressman DeSaulnier supports the College Affordability Act (H.R. 4674), which would strengthen the Higher Education Act of 1965 to lower the cost of college, hold colleges accountable for students’ success and give a new generation of students the opportunity to graduate on time with the prospect of a successful career.

Leading Legislation to Protect Student Athletes from Concussions

To help protect younger athletes who are at greater risk from sports-related concussions than college or professional athletes, Congressman DeSaulnier introduced the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 5611), which requires that schools support all students who have suffered concussions to return to sports and the classroom safely.

Protecting the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program

Together with Congressman Sarbanes and Senator Warren, Congressman DeSaulnier introduced the What You Can Do For Your Country Act (H.R. 2441) to protect the PSLF program. This program allows America’s public servants to qualify for student loan debt relief after working full-time for 10 years at certain nonprofit organizations or for local, state, or federal government. Secretary DeVos’s Education Department, however, has only granted loan forgiveness to about 1% of civil servants who qualify. This bill would ensure that they get the debt relief they deserve.