

EDUCATION

SUMMARY OF POSITION

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 the Workforce, Congressman DeSaulnier has been an advocate for quality education. From preschool to higher education and beyond, he values a public education, programs to support the “whole child,” and ensuring that all students gain the skills they need to succeed in our rapidly changing workplace.

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

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.
- 6.6 million, or **13% of K-12 public school students receive special education services.**
- The U.S. has an **84% high school graduation rate**, the highest in history.
- **Millennials are on track to be the most educated generation in history**, with 24% 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 \$10 million in federal funding.

Authored Legislation to Support Students with Disabilities in Higher Education

While there has been advancement in supports for students with disabilities in elementary and secondary school, higher education policy has not kept pace. That’s why Mark introduced the Improving Access to Higher Education Act (H.R. 3199), which is the first-ever comprehensive legislation that specifically addresses the needs of students with disabilities in higher education.

Authored Bill to Remove College Financial Burdens

College is becoming increasingly unaffordable for many Americans, and research shows that non-tuition costs -- off-campus housing, textbooks, childcare, and transportation -- make up the majority of the cost of attending. To help remove these barriers for low-income students, Mark introduced the Pell Grant Flexibility Act (H.R. 3581) that allows students to use Pell Grants for non-tuition expenses without being penalized.

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, Mark introduced the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 3580), which requires that schools support all students who have suffered concussions to return to sports and the classroom safely.