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.

**Summary of Position**

- **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.**

**By the Numbers**

**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.