Igniting Innovation for Individuals With Learning Disabilities and Attention Issues

With each new Congress, the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) develops a federal policy agenda to 1) advance key issues and 2) promote opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities and attention issues. We create the agenda based on research and feedback from our community.

Our top five policy priorities for the 118th Congress and the current Administration are:

1. **Enhance Inclusion and Achievement in Pre–K–12**
   
   *Every student with a disability has a right to high-quality and inclusive education.*

   *We advocate to:*
   
   - Increase federal funding for the education of students with disabilities.
   - Provide a strong start to education for young learners with disabilities.
   - Support a well-prepared and diverse teacher workforce.
   - Hold education leaders and systems accountable for school and student performance.

2. **Support the Well-Being and Protect the Rights of Individuals With Disabilities**

   *Individuals with disabilities are most successful when they are safe and supported.*

   *We advocate to:*

   - Focus on the mental health needs of people with disabilities.
   - Protect the rights of youth with disabilities involved in the juvenile justice system and ensure access to services and supports related to their disabilities.
   - Promote safe and healthy school environments and positive school climate.
   - Limit the use of restraint, seclusion, and other harmful forms of discipline.
3. Drive Postsecondary Access and Success

The transition to life after high school is a critical time for students with disabilities. We advocate to:

- Remove barriers to accessing disability accommodations in college.
- Promote access to advanced coursework, and college and career readiness.
- Increase coordination and collaboration among high schools, institutions of higher education, and employers.
- Improve transition planning and services for students with disabilities.

4. Eliminate Barriers to Employment

Learning disabilities and attention issues are lifelong and impact individuals in the workforce. We advocate to:

- Support access to and inclusion in federally funded workforce development programs.
- Protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in the workforce.
- Prioritize competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities.
- Include disability and accessibility in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

5. Seed Innovation With Research and Data

Research and quality data are critical to creating policies that improve our education systems and the workplace. We advocate to:

- Invest in high-quality education research to support students with disabilities and their educators.
- Provide additional funding for clinical research on learning disabilities and attention issues.
- Improve postsecondary education data systems to support opportunities for students with disabilities.
- Enhance school climate and discipline data systems to protect the rights of students with disabilities.