Education Sector: Recommendations to Advance Social Connection

Foundation for Social Connection ACTION NETWORK

We envision a vibrant society where social connection is at the heart of public policy and how we live.

CALL TO ACTION

Join the movement to confront the growing crisis of social disconnection. Call for bold investments and policy reforms across health, education, employment, infrastructure, arts and culture, nutrition, and research to build a more connected, resilient, and thriving society for all.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Action Network believes in integrating evidence-based practices, expanding support for underserved communities, increasing behavioral health training, and enhancing digital literacy. Key strategies include mental health screenings in K–12 schools, peer mentoring and service access in higher education, and targeted digital literacy programs for older adults and low-income populations. These efforts aim to foster social capital, reduce isolation, and support mental well-being across all age groups.

To address social isolation and loneliness and to encourage social connection in the education sector, policymakers should:

Integrate intergenerational engagement into public health campaigns with a focus on fostering health and technology literacy and reducing social isolation.

Include student support services such as technical help desks and peer mentoring in federally funded higher education.

Fund digital literacy training programs in public libraries, schools, senior centers, and congregate meal sites, targeting older adults, non-traditional learners, and low-income populations.

Expand Title I funding to support initiatives that build social capital in schools serving low-income communities.

Direct the DOE to provide recommendations on the incorporation of evidence-based instructional practices on social connection and pilot a program scale that includes evidence-based programs to enhance social capital, including intergenerational approaches.