



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Serving All Elementary and Middle Level Principals

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Release of the National Middle School Association's *Success in the Middle: A Policymaker's Guide to Achieving Quality Middle Level Education*

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We applaud the National Middle School Association (NMSA) for its release of *Success in the Middle: A Policymaker's Guide to Achieving Quality Middle Level Education*. This groundbreaking guide provides a solid framework for policymakers to reference as they create legislation and determine funding levels for education programs that impact the 20 million adolescents in our nation's schools.

Members of Congress, governors, state boards, local districts, and other educational stakeholders must work more closely together to create a cohesive national policy for middle school. The goals and recommendations set forth in this guide are clearly defined, feasible, and provide the necessary framework that policymakers should follow.

We know that the middle grades are a time of transition and rapid developmental change. We also know that it is a time when achievement gaps become more evident for students who have not received equal access to a high-quality pre-K and elementary education. *Success in the Middle* demonstrates how policymakers can better close the achievement gaps by allocating the necessary funding to support and maintain strong learning communities.

We support NMSA's efforts to ensure that middle school students are afforded the same opportunities to excel throughout their educational careers and we congratulate them on this valuable and much needed resource.