



November 24, 2008

The Honorable John Podesta, Valeria Jarrett, Peter Rouse  
Co-Chairs  
Obama-Biden Transition Team

Washington, D.C. 20001

NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOLS

1620 I STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5605  
TELEPHONE (202) 973-9700  
FAX (202) 973-9790

Dear Co-Chairs Podesta, Jarrett and Rouse:

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) would like to meet with the Obama-Biden Transition Team to discuss the education challenges facing our country and how we can work together to solve them.

NAIS is a membership organization for nearly 1,400 independent (private, nonprofit) schools in the U.S that enroll over 500,000 students. NAIS serves as the national voice for independent schools and as the center for collective action on their behalf.

Independent schools are tremendous resources in their communities, providing high quality education and serving as laboratories of innovation, while saving American tax payers millions. NAIS member schools are dedicated to working with local, state, and federal policymakers, and public and private school colleagues to help make the U.S. education system the best in the world.

The most pressing issue facing schools and school leaders at the moment is financial sustainability. NAIS has developed a legislative agenda to support schools becoming more efficient and less costly. Below are the issues we would like to discuss at the proposed meeting.

- ❖ **Health Insurance**
  - Support legislation that would allow the formation of association health plans (AHPs) or other such vehicles that would enable independent schools to provide quality healthcare insurance for employees at reduced costs.
- ❖ **Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Community**
  - Support the retention of the exempt organization designation 501(c)(3) and the resultant benefits for independent schools.
- ❖ **Transportation**
  - Monitor initiatives related to student transportation safety.



❖ **Telecommunications**

- Support the continued inclusion of independent schools in the E-Rate program.
- Support legislation that would exempt the Universal Service Fund from the Anti-Deficiency Act.

❖ **Visas**

- Secure a legislative exemption that would grant independent schools a waiver as educational institutions for the H1B Visa cap.

NAIS would like to become a resource for the Obama-Biden Administration. I look forward to working with you during this transition and in future matters related to independent school education. Best of luck with a smooth and successful transition.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Bassett  
President  
National Association of Independent Schools