



# EDUCATION PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

*Access to high-quality, inclusive education and educational supports—from early education to higher education—are critical for individuals with SMA. Current federal law makes available a free appropriate public education for children with disabilities, requires public school accessibility and appropriate educational accommodations, and makes it illegal to discriminate against students with disabilities on the basis of disability.*

## CURE SMA EDUCATION PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES:

Cure SMA is committed to promoting inclusive education and the rights of students with SMA within our country's educational system. Our principles and priorities include:



**Protect Student Rights and Access to Accessible and Appropriate Education:** Students with SMA should have full access to educational supports, learn alongside their peers, and not be subjected to discrimination in the classroom. *Cure SMA will support efforts to fulfil the federal mandate to provide all students with SMA with a free and appropriate public education that meets their individual needs and protects their rights.*



**Increase Funding for Educational Supports for Students with Disabilities:** Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education and related services for individuals with disabilities, including SMA. *Cure SMA will support efforts to increase funding for IDEA programs, including state grants, preschool grants, and early intervention services, to finally meet the federal promise to children with disabilities.*



**Enhance Educational Learning through Assistive Technology and Related Educational Supports:** Students with SMA should have access to assistive technology that is accessible, interoperable, and usable in the school setting. *Cure SMA will support efforts to promote access to assistive technology and other educational supports and accommodations that students with SMA may need to promote learning.*



**Increasing Access to Higher Education:** Students with SMA who choose to pursue higher education must receive access to the educational supports and accommodations they need to succeed within their college or other post-secondary program. *Cure SMA will support efforts focused on ensuring students with SMA and other disabilities are supported in their higher education pursuits.*



**Preparing Teachers of the Future:** Students studying to become teachers must receive training and in-classroom experiences in their college teacher preparation programs to effectively support the educational needs of students with SMA and other disabilities. *Cure SMA will support efforts to attract new teachers in the field of special education and to train all teachers to effectively support and meet the learning needs of students with disabilities.*