



Friend,

Last week I was honored to be confirmed as the 10th U.S. Secretary of Education by the U.S. Senate. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our President, and students, teachers, school leaders, families, and communities across the country.

As a nation, we've made a lot of progress over the past seven years. More students than ever are being taught to college- and career-ready standards; dropout rates are at historic lows and graduation rates at all-time highs; and high-quality preschool and higher education are within reach for more families.

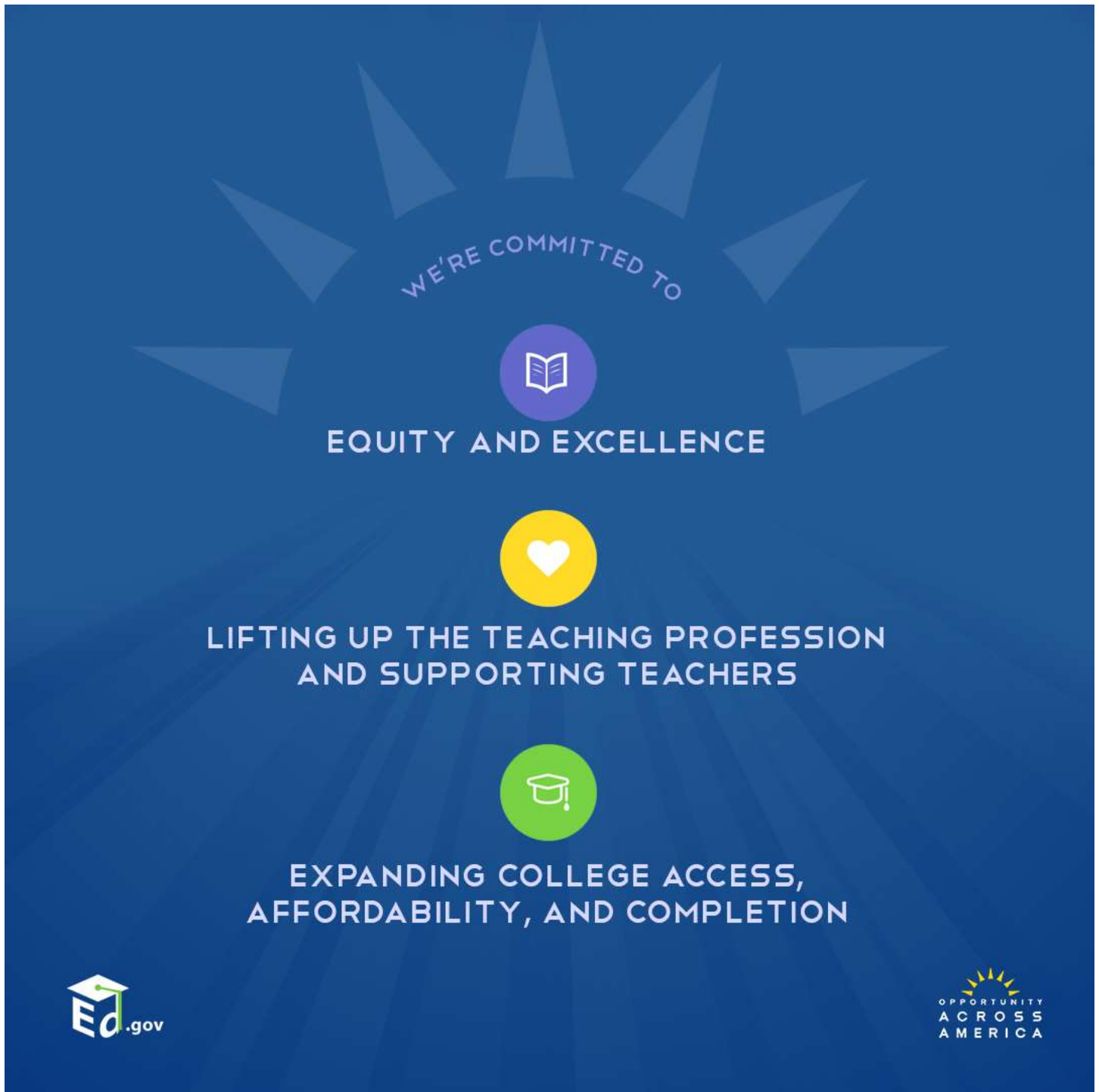
**[But there is a lot more work to do – and we, at the Department of Education, can't do it alone. It takes all of us, working together.](#)**

You may know that I come from a family of educators. My father was a New York City public school teacher and principal. My mother was a New York City Public School teacher and guidance counselor. Although my parents' belief in the power of education inspires and guides my work to this day, I did not get the chance to know them well. I lost my mother when I was eight. My father passed away when I was twelve. School, and the remarkable teachers who believed in my potential, offered me a safe haven. Because of them, I went on to become a high school social studies teacher, a middle school principal and co-founder, and later, a state education commissioner.

I am also a proud parent of two wonderful girls, a 4th grader and a 7th grader who attend Maryland public schools.

Education saved my life and I am passionately committed to continue making education a priority for our country.

**[Help me get the word out about our important mission. Share this graphic and let others know you're committed to making education a priority for our children.](#)**



We need your help to ensure that every child in America has the opportunity to succeed regardless of zip code, that teachers have the resources and support they need, and that a college degree is accessible and affordability for anyone seeking higher education.

When we achieve, we achieve together.

John

John King, Jr.  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education