

March X, 2023

Dear Chairs Granger and Murray and Ranking Members DeLauro and Collins,

On behalf of the [Alliance for Learning Innovation \(ALI\)](#)—a coalition that brings together education nonprofits, philanthropy, and the private sector to advocate for a better research and development (R&D) infrastructure in education—we respectfully write to request increased funding for education research and development (R&D) in the fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills. Acute learning loss from COVID-19 and a long trajectory of underperformance jeopardize students' futures and the nation's competitiveness. Without more robust investment in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the Department of Education's (ED) Education Innovation and Research Program (EIR), and the education and workforce efforts at the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. will not be able to unleash the potential of our students to thrive and our country to successfully lead in an increasingly competitive global landscape.

As technology evolves, there is an opportunity to leverage the latest advancements, like generative artificial intelligence (AI), to improve outcomes in K-12 education. A recent [survey](#) of K-12 teachers and students reflects how technologies like ChatGPT will require us to think differently about education. A key survey finding, "[A] majority of students (63%) and teachers (72%) agree with the statement that 'ChatGPT is just another example of why we can't keep doing things the old way for schools in the modern world.'" A robust federal investment in education R&D will enable more initiatives like the [AI Institute for Exceptional Children](#), a collaboration between IES and NSF, that capitalizes on the latest AI research to serve children with speech and language pathology needs. Education R&D is key to supporting an education system that is responsive to the needs of students, teachers, and families in a modern world.

Boosting education R&D will directly strengthen the talent pipeline critical for our nation's economic and national security. As countries like China and India are likely to surpass the United States in educational attainment, the national security implications are real. According to the American Enterprise Institute's report on [The Changing Global Distribution of Highly Education Manpower, 1950-2040](#), "... America's poor performance also necessarily impairs our ability to cope with competitors in the strategic arena, limiting our options and forcing us increasingly to consider second-best options for our national security." Education research, development and innovation can help address this national security challenge by giving students, teachers, and families access to breakthrough technologies; new pedagogical approaches; innovative learning models; and more efficient, reliable, and valid forms of measurement of student learning, experiences, and opportunities.

Within the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) bill, we respectfully request that Congress provide:

- At least \$900 million for the Institute of Education Sciences. Within this amount, ALI requests \$75 million for a National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE), \$100 million for Statewide Longitudinal Sate Systems, and continued support for the School Pulse Panel. Robust support for existing dissemination activities should also continue in FY 2024, which will serve as a down-payment to help build a more robust state & local education R&D infrastructure.
- \$514 million for ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's Education Innovation and

Research (EIR) program, including support for projects building career-connected learning opportunities and teacher pathways.

Within the Commerce, Justice, Science bill, we urge Congress to provide:

- At least \$1.95 billion for the STEM Edu Directorate at NSF. Within this amount, \$50 million should be provided to support the Centers for Transformative Education Research and Translation as authorized in the Chips and Science Act. This funding will help NSF to address vital challenges facing the U.S. talent pipeline, strengthening our national competitiveness in STEM education and beyond.
- At least \$1.19 billion for the Directorate of Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) and \$50 million for Centers for Transformative Education Research and Translation as authorized in the Chips and Science Act.

We recommend that the final appropriations language continues to encourage strong collaboration between NSF and ED to maximize these critical investments and expedite the discovery and adaptation of evidence-based innovations in education to the benefit of all students, practitioners, and schools.

From 2000 to 2020, according to data on federal R&D by budget function from the NSF, R&D investments in health across federal agencies increased by around 125 percent, from \$18 billion to over \$40 billion. Other fields with high-impact innovation, like agriculture and energy, have also seen significant R&D increases over the same period: 68.5 percent and 362 percent, respectively. By contrast, from 2000 to 2020, R&D funding in the combined field of “education, training, employment, and social services” has risen from \$429 million to just \$589 million, an increase of 37 percent—outpaced by 50 percent overall rate of inflation during this time. This means that, in reality, the nation has divested in education R&D.

We hope to see strong support for education R&D and innovation in the FY 2024 appropriations. Without a robust federal investment, the U.S. will not have the necessary talent, drawn from all states and regions of our great nation, to drive the next century of ideas, innovation and prosperity.

Sincerely,

[ALI Coalition Signatories]