

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 11, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned organizations, representing principals, teachers, other educational leaders, and parents, urge you to guarantee an adequate investment in federal education by ensuring the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill receive its proportional share—about one third—of discretionary dollars in the FY 2021 budget. Without allocating the appropriate amount to the largest non-defense discretionary appropriations bill, many education programs will continue to be underfunded, weakening their impact on our nation's schools. This includes the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program, or Title II-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which supports state and school district efforts to recruit, prepare, mentor, and provide professional development for their teachers, principals, and other educators.

In 2015, when Congress passed the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), it identified education as the foundation each child needs to achieve the American dream. Because research has shown that the two most important in-school factors in student achievement are effective teachers and school leaders, Congress included Title II-A when it enacted ESSA with bipartisan support in 2015. After suffering several cuts and receiving no increases in the past decade, the program received a \$76 million increase in FY 2020 and is now funded at \$2.13 billion.

While we are pleased that Congress approved an increase in funding for FY 2020, we hope to see even greater investments in this program in FY 2021. The House supported an increased allocation by approving a \$500 million increase for Title II-A funding in its original FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Unfortunately, in the final adopted FY 2020 appropriations package Title II-A received less than 20% of the increase that the House had sought.

We have serious concerns with President Trump's FY 2021 budget, which would consolidate Title II-A with 28 other K-12 programs into a single block grant and would reduce overall funding for this new block grant by approximately \$4.7 billion or 20 percent. We believe that eliminating, consolidating, or cutting Title II-A in any fashion would have a particularly acute impact on schools serving low-income and minority students which often have higher concentrations of inexperienced teachers and school leaders. Even level funding the program would likely further exacerbate the teacher and school leader shortages being experienced by schools across the country. Given the importance of this program to

our nation's education system, we hope that Congress ensures that Title II-A remains a separate line-item program and that it places it on firm financial footing going forward. Therefore, as you begin conversations on the FY 2021 budget, we urge you to fund Title II-A at the FY 2020 House-passed level of \$2.6 billion.

Strong investments in Title II-A are critical to supporting teachers, school leaders, and other educators' efforts to improve instruction and ensure that all students graduate high school poised for lifelong success. Allocating the proper and proportional amount for the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill is the first step in bolstering support for our nation's educators via Title II-A. Thank you for your leadership in this critical matter.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

ACTFL
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
Advance CTE
Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of School Personnel Administrators
American Federation of School Administrators
American Federation of Teachers
ASCD
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Autism Society of America
Collaborative For Academic, Social, And Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of the Great City Schools
EDGE Consulting Partners
Educators for Excellence
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Forward
National Association for Music Education
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council of Teachers of English
National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform
National Institute for Excellence in Teaching
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
National Science Teaching Association
National Writing Project
New Leaders
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Rural School and Community Trust
School Social Work Association of America
Teach For America
TESOL International Association
The Hunt Institute

State Organizations

Administrators Association San Diego City Schools (AASD)
Alaska ASCD
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP)
Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals
Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals
Association of California School Administrators
Association of Washington School Principals
Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
California ASCD
Colorado Association of Elementary School Principals (CAESP)
Colorado Association of School Executives
Connecticut Federation of School Administrators
Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools
Delaware Association of School Principals
EPA/AFSA
Florida Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals
Florida Association of School Administrators
Florida Association of Secondary School Principals
Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals
Hawaii Elementary and Middle School Administrators Association
Illinois Principals Association
Indiana Association of School Principals
Iowa ASCD
Kentucky Association of Elementary School Principals
Learning Forward Alaska
Learning Forward Florida
Learning Forward Georgia
Learning Forward Mississippi
Learning Forward New Jersey
Learning Forward North Dakota
Learning Forward Ohio
Learning Forward Oklahoma
Learning Forward Virginia
Maine ASCD
Maine Principals' Association
Massachusetts School Administrator Association
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association
Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals
Nebraska Council of School Administrators
Nevada Elementary School Principals Association
New Hampshire ASCD
New Hampshire Association of School Principals (NHASP)
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
North Carolina ASCD
Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals
Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals

Pennsylvania Principals Association
Puerto Rico ASCD
Rhode Island Association of School Principals
School Administrators Association of New York State
School Administrators of Iowa
School Administrators of South Dakota
Tennessee Principals Association (TPA)
Texas Association of Secondary School Principals
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association
The Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals
Utah Association of Elementary School Principals
Utah Association of Secondary School Principals
Vermont ASCD
Vermont Principals' Association
Virginia ASCD
Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals
Washington State ASCD
West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals
Wyoming Association of Elementary & Middle School Principals

Local Organizations

Association of Madison Administrators
Association of Supervisory & Administrative School Personnel (ASASP)
Auburn Administration Association
BAESP (Billings Association of Elementary School Principals)
Bloomfield Administrators Association
Buffalo Council of Supervisors and Administrators
Chicago Principals' Association
Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, AFSA Local 1
Griswold Administration Association
Kent County Public Schools
Norwich School Administrators Association
Putnam Administrators' Association
South Windsor Administrators Association
Southgate Principals and Supervisors Association
St. Louis Administrators Association, Local 44, AFI-CIO
Suffolk Public Schools
Taylor Principal's Association
Union of Berkeley Administrators Local 81