

TITLE IV-A COALITION

November 29, 2022

Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Blunt, and Ranking Member Cole:

On behalf of the 31 undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we urge Congress to fund the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized by Title IV Part A of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) program at \$2 billion in FY23. This block grant supports investments in safe and healthy students, well-rounded education programs, and the effective use of technology in education.

Title IV-A funds enable districts to provide a wide array of services which are critical to supporting academic recovery including: school mental and behavioral health services; efforts to promote a safe school environment; access to a well-rounded curriculum, including STEM, arts, and civics education; mentoring programs; out of school supports; and accelerated learning opportunities. Further, Title IV-A funds improve the effective use of technology in learning including supporting telehealth services and providing professional development for educators on the effective use of technology to keep children engaged in learning, whether in a classroom, hybrid, or virtual environment. Without this critical investment, many districts could be forced to choose between violence prevention programming or increasing access to AP courses. Robust investment in Title IV-A helps ensure districts are able to provide a full array of services and learning opportunities that support the whole child, and improve academic success for all students.

Title IV-A has continuously maintained bipartisan support in part because of the great flexibility it affords states and districts to implement programming based on specific needs of their school community. In a 2021, we conducted a survey of district leaders and received over 500 responses. Survey data reveals that Title IV-A funds allowed for service delivery that would otherwise not have been possible. This federal investment is absolutely critical to supporting comprehensive student need, ensuring a safe and healthy school environment and increasing access to a well-rounded education that puts them on a path to success. We must continue to invest in our nation's schools, educators, and most importantly, our students. For these reasons, we urge Congress to fund the SSAE flexible grant program at \$2 billion in FY 2023. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

We look forward to working with you to make sure students in every community are supported to reach their maximum potential. Please contact Jon Bernstein (jon@bsg-dc.com) or Kelly Vaillancourt (kvaillancourt@naspweb.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance
American Counseling Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Heart Association
American Library Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
City Year, Inc.
Committee for Children
Communities In Schools
CoSN
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Educational Theatre Association
ISTE
League of American Orchestras
Learning Disabilities Association of America
MENTOR
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council for the Social Studies
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National PTA
National Science Teaching Association
School-Based Health Alliance
SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators
State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education
State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)