



April 4, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA), ASCD, Learning Forward, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), New Leaders, —which collectively represent principals, teachers and other school leaders in the nation’s 115,000 elementary, middle, and high schools—are writing to express our support for full funding of Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as Congress works to finalize a funding measure for the remainder of FY 2017 and FY 2018.

Overwhelmingly approved by a bipartisan Congress, ESSA provides new opportunities for states to use Title II, Part A funds to invest in principal leadership and support and job-embedded professional learning opportunities for teachers – all evidence-based strategies that will lead to improved student outcomes. Many states have already taken advantage of the optional three percent of Title II, Part A funds for school leadership activities. States also report that the Title II, Part A funds make possible the majority of their professional learning activities for teachers. To ensure that states have access to these opportunities, our organizations ask that Congress allocate no less than \$2.295 billion to Title II, Part A in any new funding package. This amount

represents what was originally authorized for Title II, Part A under ESSA, and is still below pre-sequestration funding levels.

Research has proven that effective school leadership is second only to direct classroom instruction as a factor in raising student achievement. Given the unique role that principals play in ensuring that our nation's students have a high-quality learning experience through high school in order to be college and career ready, principals must be afforded the necessary opportunities for professional learning and growth as they work to improve teaching and learning in all schools. Title II, Part A grants principals these opportunities, as it provides formula funding to states for the purpose of preparing, training, recruiting, and retaining high-quality teachers, principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders. Additionally, these funds can be used for reforming school leader preparation programs; modifying evaluation systems; and developing school leader residency, induction, and mentoring programs.

We are extremely disappointed by President Trump's decision to eliminate funding entirely for Title II, Part A in the initial fiscal year 2018 budget proposal to Congress. Our organizations urge you to instead provide the full funding level authorized for Title II, Part A in ESSA. Over the past two years, there has been considerable recognition at the state and local levels of the need to provide a greater investment in the recruitment and retention of effective principals and professional learning systems for teachers. This is demonstrated in the current state ESSA plans that are being drafted, but without any Title II funding, states and districts will not be able to execute plans that strive to support effective educators as they implement the new law. Congress must give states the necessary resources to invest in principals and help our nation's schools and students succeed by funding Title II, Part A at no less than \$2.295 billion for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we hope we can count on your support.

### **National Organizations**

AASA The School Superintendents Association  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
American Federation of School Administrators  
ASCD  
ASPIRA Association, Inc.  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Association of School Business Officials International  
Autism National Committee  
Center for Law and Education  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Council for Exceptional Children  
ECET2ADK Planning Committee  
EDGE  
Educators 4 Excellence  
Feminist Majority Foundation

First Focus  
 Generation Schools Network  
 Hope Street Group  
 Kappa Delta Pi  
 Leading Educators  
 Learning Forward  
 Lions Clubs International  
 Magnet Schools of America  
 National Association for the Education of Young Children  
 National Association of Elementary School Principals  
 National Association of Secondary School Principals  
 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
 National Center for Learning Disabilities  
 National Council of Teachers of English  
 National Disability Rights Network  
 National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform  
 National Network of State Teachers of the Year  
 National PTA  
 New Leaders  
 National Rural Education Association  
 New Teacher Center  
 NYC Leadership Academy  
 PDK International  
 Public Advocacy for Kids  
 Scholastic Inc.  
 SHAPE America  
 Students for Education Reform  
 TASH  
 Teach For America  
 Teach Plus  
 TNTP  
 University Council for Educational Administration

**State Organizations**

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| Southern Poverty Law Center                             | AL, GA, MS, FL, LA |
| Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators | Alabama            |
| Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals      | Alabama            |
| Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals      | Alaska             |
| Alaska ASCD   | Alaska             |
| Alaska Council of School Administrators                 | Alaska             |
| Arizona School Administrators                           | Arizona            |
| Arkansas ASCD   | Arkansas           |
| Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals    | Arkansas           |
| Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators      | Arkansas           |
| Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals     | Arkansas           |

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| Project KnuckleHead  | California           |
| Association of California School Administrators                          | California           |
| United Administrators of Oakland Schools                                 | California           |
| United Administrators of San Francisco, Emeritus                         | California           |
| Colorado Association of School Executives                                | Colorado             |
| Connecticut Association of Schools                                       | Connecticut          |
| Putnam Administrators Group  | Connecticut          |
| South Windsor Administrators Association                                 | Connecticut          |
| Thompson Association of School Administrators                            | Connecticut          |
| Coventry Administration Association                                      | Connecticut          |
| The Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association                    | Connecticut          |
| School Administrators Association of New Haven                           | Connecticut          |
| DC Council of School Officers  | District of Columbia |
| District of Columbia Association of Secondary School Principals          | District of Columbia |
| Florida Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals           | Florida              |
| Florida Association of Secondary School Principals                       | Florida              |
| Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals                      | Georgia              |
| Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals                       | Georgia              |
| Hawaii Association of Secondary School Principals                        | Hawaii               |
| Idaho Association of School Administrators                               | Idaho                |
| Chicago Principals & Administrators Association                          | Illinois             |
| Illinois Principals Association  | Illinois             |
| Golden Apple Foundation  | Illinois             |
| Indiana Association of School Principals                                 | Indiana              |
| School Administrators of Iowa  | Iowa                 |
| Iowa ASCD  | Iowa                 |
| Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals                        | Kansas               |
| Kentucky Association of Elementary School Principals                     | Kentucky             |
| Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals                      | Kentucky             |
| Louisiana Association of Principals                                      | Louisiana            |
| Maine Principals' Association  | Maine                |
| Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals                     | Maryland             |
| Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals                      | Maryland             |
| Public School Administrators & Supervisors Association of Baltimore City | Maryland             |
| Howard County Administrators Association                                 | Maryland             |
| Association of Supervisory & Administrative School Personnel             | Maryland             |
| Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association                | Massachusetts        |
| Boston Association of School Administrators & Supervisors                | Massachusetts        |
| Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals                      | Michigan             |
| Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association                      | Minnesota            |
| Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals                     | Minnesota            |
| Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals                     | Missouri             |
| Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals                      | Missouri             |
| Missouri ASCD  | Missouri             |

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| Administrators Association of the St. Louis Public Schools      | Missouri       |
| School Administrators of Montana                                | Montana        |
| Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals  | Montana        |
| Montana Association of Secondary School Principals              | Montana        |
| Montana Association of School Superintendents                   | Montana        |
| Montana Association of County School Superintendents            | Montana        |
| Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education          | Montana        |
| Montana Educational Technologists Association                   | Montana        |
| Nebraska ASCD   | Nebraska       |
| Nevada Association of School Administrators                     | Nevada         |
| Nevada Association of School Superintendents                    | Nevada         |
| Secondary School Principal's Association of Nevada              | Nevada         |
| New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association               | New Jersey     |
| New Jersey ASCD   | New Jersey     |
| City Association of Supervisors and Administrators              | New Jersey     |
| New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals          | New Mexico     |
| New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals           | New Mexico     |
| Council of School Supervisors & Administrators                  | New York       |
| New York Educator Voice Fellowship                              | New York       |
| School Administrators Association of New York State             | New York       |
| New York State ASCD   | New York       |
| Yonkers Council of Administrators                               | New York       |
| Buffalo Council of Supervisors & Administrators                 | New York       |
| NYC Leadership Academy  | New York       |
| Profound Gentlemen  | North Carolina |
| North Carolina ASCD   | North Carolina |
| North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association | North Carolina |
| North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals         | North Dakota   |
| North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders                     | North Dakota   |
| Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators            | Ohio           |
| Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators             | Ohio           |
| Ohio ASCD   | Ohio           |
| Oklahoma Association for Secondary School Principals            | Oklahoma       |
| Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals            | Oklahoma       |
| Confederation of Oregon School Administrators                   | Oregon         |
| Pennsylvania Principals Association                             | Pennsylvania   |
| Rhode Island Association of School Principals                   | Rhode Island   |
| South Carolina Association of School Administrators             | South Carolina |
| South Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals         | South Dakota   |
| Tennessee Principals Association                                | Tennessee      |
| Tennessee ASCD  | Tennessee      |
| Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals            | Tennessee      |
| Texas ASCD  | Texas          |
| Texas Association of Secondary School Principals                | Texas          |
| Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association         | Texas          |

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| Utah Association of Elementary School Principals                 | Utah          |
| Utah Association of Secondary School Principals                  | Utah          |
| Vermont Principals' Association                                  | Vermont       |
| Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals              | Virginia      |
| Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals             | Virginia      |
| Association of Washington School Principals                      | Washington    |
| Washington State ASCD  | Washington    |
| West Virginia Association of Elementary/Middle School Principals | West Virginia |
| Association of Wisconsin School Administrators                   | Wisconsin     |
| Wisconsin ASCD   | Wisconsin     |
| Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals   | Wyoming       |
| Wyoming Association of Secondary School Principals               | Wyoming       |