

April 26, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Members Granger and Cole:

On behalf of the nearly 100 undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we urge Congress to please fund the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program under 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 help support comprehensive school health services, including comprehensive school mental and behavioral health services, all of which are critical to support student learning and overall wellness as well as continued recovery from the impact of the pandemic. All of the Title IV-A supported initiatives play a critical role in ensuring a well-rounded education and the necessary comprehensive academic, social-emotional, and mental and behavioral health supports that address the needs of the whole child. Without this critical investment, districts could be forced to choose between offering music and arts instruction, 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 meet the unique needs of their school community. 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.

Title IV-A has maintained bipartisan support since its authorization in the Every Student Succeeds Act, in part because of the great flexibility it affords states and districts. Over the last six fiscal years, investments in Title IV-A, have allowed districts to meaningfully invest in efforts that promote a safe and supportive learning environment, and in programs that provide direct educational services to students, including STEM, SEL, AP/IB classes, music and the arts, mental health services, and professional development for technology. In a 2021 survey of over 500 districts, many district leaders reported that these initiatives would not be possible without these funds.

In order to support a safe and healthy school environment and make sure our students receive 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.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Advance CTE	National
Afterschool Alliance	National
American Counseling Association	National
American Federation of School Administrators	National
American Library Association	National
American Occupational Therapy Association	National
American Occupational Therapy Association	National
American Psychological Association	National
American School Counselor Association	National
American String Teachers Association	National
BellXcel	National
Chiefs For Change	National
City Year Inc.	National
Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)	National
Committee for Children	National
Council for Exceptional Children	National
Council of Administrators of Special Education	National
EDGE Consulting Partners	National
EDGE Consulting Partners	National
Educational Theatre Association	National
Every Hour Counts	National
Futures Without Violence	National
Futures Without Violence	National
Girlstart	National
Horizons National	National
International Society for Technology in Education	National
Joint National Committee for Languages	National
League of American Orchestras	National

Learning Disabilities Association of America	National
MENTOR	National
Music Teachers National Association	National
NAfME	National
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools	National
National Association for College Admission Counseling	National
National Association for Music Education	National
National Association of School Psychologists	National
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)	National
National Center for Learning Disabilities	National
National Council for Languages and International Studies	National
National Council for the Social Studies	National
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)	National
National PTA	National
National Summer Learning Association	National
Outward Bound USA	National
Peekapak Inc	National
School-Based Health Alliance	National
SHAPE America	National
State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)	National

State and Local Organizations

Alabama Music Educators Association	Alabama
Alabama Music Educators Association	Alabama
Arizona Music Educator's Association	Arizona
Educator	Arizona
Pop Goes the lassroom	Arizona
Round Table Advisory Committee (Arts Education)	Arizona
Rocky Mountain Association for College Admissions Counselors	Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah
California Music Educators Association	California
Los Angeles Unified School District	California
San Diego Unified School District	California
CT Music Educators Association	Connecticut
Florida Music Education Association	Florida

Hawai'i Orff Schulwerk Association	Hawaii
Hawai'i Music Educators Association	Hawaii
Indiana Association of School Principals	Indiana
Kansas Music Educators Association	Kansas
Great Plains Association for College Admissions Counseling	Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma
Kentucky Music Educators Association	Kentucky
Maryland Music Educators Association	Maryland
Massachusetts School Administrators Association	Massachusetts
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals	Michigan
Montana Music Educators Association	Montana
Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling	Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Oregon, Washington
Nevada Music Educators Association	Nevada
New England Association for College Admission Counseling	New England
New Jersey Music Educators Association	New Jersey
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association	New Jersey
NJ Music Educators Association	New Jersey
New Mexico Music Educators Association	New Mexico
NYSACAC	New York
New York City Arts in Education Roundtable	New York
North Carolina Music Educators Association	North Carolina
Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling	Ohio
Pennsylvania Music Educators Association	Pennsylvania
South Dakota Music Education Association	South Dakota
National Association for Music Education - Texas	Texas
Utah Music Educators Association	Utah
Vermont Principals' Association	Vermont
Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals	Virginia
Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education	Virginia
Virginia Music Educators Association	Virginia
West Virginia Music Educators Association	West Virginia
Wisconsin Music Educators Association	Wisconsin