

Over 50 national organizations express deep concern and disappointment with FY17 funding level of ESSA’s flexible block grant

Washington D.C. — May 2, 2017

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Title IV, A Coalition, we offer the following response to the \$400 million appropriated by Congress and the language allowing states to change the structure of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act, for fiscal year 2017:

“We are deeply disappointed in Congress' decision to fund the SSAE grant program (Title IV, A of ESSA) at \$400 million, which is just 25% of its ESSA authorization level. From our perspective, this level of funding undermines Congressional intent to give states and districts the flexibility to make meaningful investments in a range of programs that foster safe and healthy school climates, ensure students receive a well-rounded education, and allow for the effective use of technology.

“Although we appreciate Members of Congress seeking input on the most effective way to structure a competitive option, we maintain that they should fund Title IV, Part A at the fully authorized level in FY18 so the program can run as intended and benefit students across the country. We urge states to seriously consider the competitive option offered in the FY17 Omnibus Appropriations bill as a way to ensure that many, albeit not all, of their districts receive funding at levels sufficient to make a difference.

"We hope that Congress and the Administration will provide full funding for SSAE next year and beyond, thereby obviating the need to offer the state competition option again."

Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK)
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Association of School Librarians
American College of Sports Medicine
American Council for School Social Work
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
American Dance Therapy Association
American Library Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
ASCD

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools
College in High School Alliance
CoSN
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana (HEAL)
HealthCorps
Healthy Schools Campaign
International Society for Technology in Education
Jobs for the Future
League of American Orchestras
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lyons Club International
Museum of Science, Boston
National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)
National PTA
National School Boards Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Summer Learning Association
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
School Social Work Association of America
SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators
Society for Public Health Education

State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
The American Counseling Association
The College Board
The Corps Network
The Joyful Child Foundation
Trust for America's Health