



**Statement from Lindsay E. Jones, CEO of the National Center for Learning Disabilities,  
on President Trump's FY 2020 Budget Proposal**

**WASHINGTON** – The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) is deeply disappointed in President Trump's proposed budget for FY 2020, which -- similar to the proposals offered in FY 2018 and FY 2019 -- would result in deep and harmful cuts to programs that serve our most vulnerable students and improve our nation's public schools. Rather than investing in public education and addressing the inequities in our education system, the President proposes to siphon resources to a tax credit program that would fund private schools and benefit the wealthy. NCLD calls on members of Congress to reject the imprudent and reckless proposal put forth by the Administration and continue to invest in programs that serve all students and uphold the obligations set out in federal law.

The President's proposal to cut \$5.9B by eliminating 29 programs from the U.S. Department of Education's budget is unwise and would impact every student, including those with learning and attention issues. The budget would:

- Put a stop to programs that provide safe, supportive learning environments and well-rounded programming, including afterschool and literacy education programs under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program;
- Result in a complete loss of funding for professional development (under Title II of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)) in areas like supporting students with disabilities and implementing multi-tier systems of support;
- Fail to increase funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Title I of ESSA -- two programs that are essential to ensuring equity and opportunity for all students -- and require schools will continue to stretch their already thin resources to serve all students; and
- spend precious dollars on providing a new tax credit of \$50 billion over ten years to support private school choice, while failing to uphold students' rights under federal education and civil rights laws.

For more than 40 years, NCLD has worked to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities and ensure they have equal opportunities in school and life. The President's proposed FY 2020 budget is a direct attack on the progress we have made in recent decades, as we've advocated for students with disabilities to be educated in inclusive classrooms by teachers who have the knowledge and resources to help them thrive. Students deserve our continued investment. We urge Congress to reject this proposal and pass a thoughtful budget that supports all learners and educators.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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**About the National Center for Learning Disabilities**

The mission of the National Center for Learning Disabilities is to improve the lives of the 1 in 5 children and adults nationwide with learning and attention issues—by empowering parents and young adults, transforming schools and advocating for equal rights and opportunities. We're working to create a society in which every individual possesses the academic, social and emotional skills needed to succeed in school, at work and in life.