



National Center for Learning Disabilities Commends President's Efforts to Invest in Fixing Inequities in Public Education

WASHINGTON – April 12, 2021 – The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) applauds President Biden's FY 2022 education budget request which aims to more than double funding for our nation's most under-resourced schools. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated longstanding inequities in our nation's education system. The President's proposed funding is an essential first step toward building a better and more just education system for all.

The President's FY22 education budget request would add \$20 billion to Title I under the *Every Student Succeeds Act* and roughly \$3 billion to special education. In addition, the President's request would include increased funding for counselors, nurses, and mental health professionals in our public schools. These programs, though more critical than ever, have been underfunded for decades and serve millions of our nation's most systemically marginalized students. As such, these increases must be sustained over the long term in order to effectively support students and the educators that serve them.

"Students with disabilities have faced incredible challenges during this pandemic and our system has largely struggled to support them in the past year." says Lindsay E. Jones, President and CEO of NCLD, "We also continue to grapple with recruiting and retaining educators resulting in a growing special educator shortage. While absolutely necessarily right now, increases to IDEA funding must also be sustained long term, and Congress must put us on a path to fully fund IDEA."

If our nation's schools are to meet the call for a safe reopening in the coming months, it is essential that Congress pass a budget in line with the President's request. To safely reopen, schools must have sufficient resources to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students, especially students impacted by poverty. NCLD calls on Congress to pass a budget for FY22 that at least doubles its investment in Title I and gets IDEA on track to full funding within 10 years.

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ABOUT NCLD

The National Center for Learning Disabilities' mission 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.

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