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
eexecute 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
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
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Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education
Montana Educational Technologists Association
Nebraska ASCD
Nevada Association of School Administrators
Nevada Association of School Superintendents
Secondary School Principal's Association of Nevada
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
New Jersey ASCD
City Association of Supervisors and Administrators
New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals
New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators
New York Educator Voice Fellowship
School Administrators Association of New York State
New York State ASCD
Yonkers Council of Administrators
Buffalo Council of Supervisors & Administrators
NYC Leadership Academy
Profound Gentlemen
North Carolina ASCD
North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association
North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders
Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
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Oklahoma Association for Secondary School Principals
Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators
Pennsylvania Principals Association
Rhode Island Association of School Principals
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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