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 execute 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
Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals Arkansas
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Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education  Montana
Montana Educational Technologists Association  Montana
Nebraska ASCD  Nebraska
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School Administrators Association of New York State  New York
New York State ASCD  New York
Yonkers Council of Administrators  New York
Buffalo Council of Supervisors & Administrators  New York
NYC Leadership Academy  New York
Profound Gentlemen  North Carolina
North Carolina ASCD  North Carolina
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North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals  North Dakota
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders  North Dakota
Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators  Ohio
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Ohio ASCD  Ohio
Oklahoma Association for Secondary School Principals  Oklahoma
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Confederation of Oregon School Administrators  Oregon
Pennsylvania Principals Association  Pennsylvania
Rhode Island Association of School Principals  Rhode Island
South Carolina Association of School Administrators  South Carolina
South Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals  South Dakota
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Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association  Texas
Utah Association of Elementary School Principals  Utah
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Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals  Virginia
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Association of Washington School Principals  Washington
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