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

Project KnuckleHead	California
Association of California School Administrators	California
United Administrators of Oakland Schools	California
United Administrators of San Francisco, Emeritus	California
Colorado Association of School Executives	Colorado
Connecticut Association of Schools	Connecticut
Putnam Administrators Group	Connecticut
South Windsor Administrators Association	Connecticut
Thompson Association of School Administrators	Connecticut
Coventry Administration Association	Connecticut
The Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association	Connecticut
School Administrators Association of New Haven	Connecticut
DC Council of School Officers	District of Columbia
District of Columbia Association of Secondary School Principals	District of Columbia
Florida Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals	Florida
Florida Association of Secondary School Principals	Florida
Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals	Georgia
Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals	Georgia
Hawaii Association of Secondary School Principals	Hawaii
Idaho Association of School Administrators	Idaho
Chicago Principals & Administrators Association	Illinois
Illinois Principals Association	Illinois
Golden Apple Foundation	Illinois
Indiana Association of School Principals	Indiana
School Administrators of Iowa	Iowa
Iowa ASCD	Iowa
Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals	Kansas
Kentucky Association of Elementary School Principals	Kentucky
Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals	Kentucky
Louisiana Association of Principals	Louisiana
Maine Principals' Association	Maine
Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals	Maryland
Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals	Maryland
Public School Administrators & Supervisors Association of Baltimore City	Maryland
Howard County Administrators Association	Maryland
Association of Supervisory & Administrative School Personnel	Maryland
Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association	Massachusetts
Boston Association of School Administrators & Supervisors	Massachusetts
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals	Michigan
Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association	Minnesota
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals	Minnesota
Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals	Missouri
Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals	Missouri
Missouri ASCD	Missouri

Administrators Association of the St. Louis Public Schools	Missouri
School Administrators of Montana	Montana
Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals	Montana
Montana Association of Secondary School Principals	Montana
Montana Association of School Superintendents	Montana
Montana Association of County School Superintendents	Montana
Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education	Montana
Montana Educational Technologists Association	Montana
Nebraska ASCD	Nebraska
Nevada Association of School Administrators	Nevada
Nevada Association of School Superintendents	Nevada
Secondary School Principal's Association of Nevada	Nevada
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association	New Jersey
New Jersey ASCD	New Jersey
City Association of Supervisors and Administrators	New Jersey
New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals	New Mexico
New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals	New Mexico
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators	New York
New York Educator Voice Fellowship	New York
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
North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association	North Carolina
North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals	North Dakota
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders	North Dakota
Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators	Ohio
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators	Ohio
Ohio ASCD	Ohio
Oklahoma Association for Secondary School Principals	Oklahoma
Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals	Oklahoma
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
Tennessee Principals Association	Tennessee
Tennessee ASCD	Tennessee
Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals	Tennessee
Texas ASCD	Texas
Texas Association of Secondary School Principals	Texas
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association	Texas

Utah Association of Elementary School Principals	Utah
Utah Association of Secondary School Principals	Utah
Vermont Principals' Association	Vermont
Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals	Virginia
Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals	Virginia
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