

Auburn University  
College of Education

Boston University  
Wheelock College of Education and Human  
Development

Boston College  
Lynch School of Education

Florida State University  
College of Education

Georgia State University  
College of Education & Human Development

Indiana University  
School of Education

Iowa State University  
College of Human Sciences

John Hopkins University  
School of Education

Lehigh University  
College of Education

North Carolina State University  
College of Education

Oklahoma University  
Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education

Penn State University  
College of Education

Purdue University  
College of Education

Syracuse University  
School of Education

Texas A&M University  
College of Education and Human Development

The Ohio State University  
College of Education and Human Ecology

University of Arizona  
School of Education

University of California – Santa Barbara  
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

University of Central Florida  
College of Community Innovation and Education

University of Connecticut  
Neag School of Education

University of Florida  
College of Education

University of Georgia  
School of Education

University of Houston  
College of Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
College of Education

University of Kansas  
School of Education

University of Maryland College Park  
College of Education

University of Minnesota  
College of Education and Human Development

University of Missouri  
College of Education

University of Nevada-Reno  
College of Education

University of North Carolina  
School of Education

University of Oregon  
College of Education

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Education

University of Southern California  
Rossier School of Education

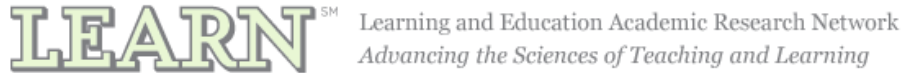
University of Texas at Austin  
College of Education

University of Vermont  
College of Education and Social Services

University of Wisconsin – Madison  
School of Education

Vanderbilt University  
Peabody College of Education and Human  
Development

Virginia Commonwealth University  
School of Education



March 05, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Moran and Serrano and Ranking Members Shaheen and Aderholt:

We are writing on behalf of the Learning and Education Academic Research Network Coalition (LEARN) to express our support for a \$9 billion overall National Science Foundation (NSF) Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 appropriation. Additionally, within NSF we support a \$1.01 billion FY2021 appropriation for the Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate. LEARN, a coalition of 38 leading research colleges of education across the country, supports critical investments in research aimed at advancing the scientific understanding of learning and development. We advocate for greater funding for these priorities across all Federal agencies, including NSF.

We are grateful for the appropriations the agency received in FY2020, yet we respectfully recognize that more is required to address the effects of historical underinvestment in fundamental research in the United States. According to the National Science Board, more than \$3 billion in high-quality proposals are submitted each year but cannot be funded. The potential impact of these missed opportunities is even more stark when considering the return on investment of fundamental scientific research and the significant investments that other nations –both allies and adversaries—are making in comparable research areas.

In addition to our call for a \$9 billion funding level for NSF overall, LEARN specifically supports funding for NSF’s EHR directorate, at \$1.01 billion in FY2021. Within the \$3.92 billion in unmet STEM funding opportunities are many essential activities and areas of discovery and development. Specifically, funding for the EHR directorate has not kept up with demand in recent years, leaving critical gaps in our ability to address fundamental challenges for K-12, undergraduate, and graduate STEM education. Stagnation in key U.S. talent development programs comes as our national security leaders are sounding alarm bells over foreign talent recruitment programs which are effectively siphoning STEM capacity from the United States and elsewhere to countries that are strongly investing while we remain complacent.

[www.learncoalition.org](http://www.learncoalition.org) ♦ [info@learncoalition.org](mailto:info@learncoalition.org)

Additionally, NSF is working to broaden participation in the STEM fields, but current funding levels are far short of what the United States needs to close the achievement gap and enable necessary progress. To ensure we have a workforce prepared to serve our present and future government, business, and academic needs, especially given global competition and national security concerns, it is vital that Congress provide adequate funding for NSF. Examples of critical education research funded by NSF include the development of a mathematics professional development for early grade teachers used with over 280 elementary teachers, where participants significantly improve their mathematical knowledge for teaching and the quality of their mathematics instruction.

Thank you for considering these requests. These important funding increases will advance scientific learning and development. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Ginsberg, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)  
Dean of the School of Education, University of Kansas

Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)  
Dean of the College of Education, University of Florida

Camilla P. Benbow, Ed.D.  
Co-Chair, Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)  
Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development of the Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University