



Learning and Education Academic Research Network
Advancing the Sciences of Teaching and Learning

November 8, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
 Chair, Appropriations
 Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
 Education & Related Agencies
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

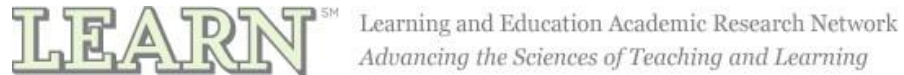
Dear Chair Murray,

We are writing to express our gratitude and very strong support for the increases in funding provided to IES and its programs by the Majority Party's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill. The Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN), a coalition of 41 leading research colleges across the country, advocates for the importance of research on learning and development. We advocate for these priorities across all Federal agencies and are thrilled by the Majority Party's inclusion of a 26 percent increase from FY21 levels for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), a 36 percent increase from FY21 levels for the Research, Development and Dissemination (RD&D) line item within IES and an 11 percent increase from FY21 levels for the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSE). The LEARN Coalition believes strongly that these key investments in education research will drive improvements in teacher and student performance in the coming years and allow for the beginning of a successful recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education research provides the bedrock of knowledge used by our principals, teachers, counselors and professors to help preK-12 students and those seeking a postsecondary education succeed. We very much appreciate the recognition of the increases provided to IES as they will support the continued examination of what works and what does not work to further our education system's curricula, instructional techniques and assessments. This additional funding will bolster IES' critical research in response to learning loss attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as strengthen education research overall.

We would like to explicitly highlight the proposed increases for RD&D and NCSE. These resources for the RD&D line item will build upon the critical resources provided in COVID-19 relief for IES to further combat the negative learning outcomes resulting from the pandemic. Additionally, the Senate Majority's support for NCSE is critical, as special education research funding has remained relatively flat since FY11 despite acting as the only Federal agency specifically designated to develop and provide evaluations for programs for students with disabilities. Research funded by NCSE provides special educators and administrators research-based resources that improve educational academic outcomes for children with or at risk of disabilities. During a time when special education students have been dramatically impacted by the change in schooling due to COVID-19, these funds will provide necessary resources to guide their continued COVID-19 response and recovery.

- 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
- Johns 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 Houston
College of Education
- University of Illinois Chicago
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-Las Vegas
College of Education
- University of Nevada-Reno
College of Education
- University of North Carolina
School of Education
- University of Oklahoma
College 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
- University of Wyoming
College of Education
- Vanderbilt University
Peabody College of Education and Human Development
- Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Education



Thank you again for your leadership in providing these increases for IES and its programs. With this support from Congress, we trust that the work of IES and its grantees can guide the nation's learning recovery so that we exit the pandemic with a stronger, more equitable, educational system than we entered with.

Sincerely,

Camilla P. Benbow, Ed.D.

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