

May 9, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Baldwin, Ranking Member Collins, Chairman Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the 130+ undersigned national, state, and local organizations, we urge Congress to increase the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized by Title IV Part A of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), program by \$100 million to \$1.48 billion in FY24.

This bipartisan flexible block grant supports investments in safe and healthy students, well-rounded education programs, and the effective use of technology in education. Robust and steady funding for Title IV-A helps ensure districts are able to provide a full array of services and learning opportunities that support the whole child, and improve academic success for all students. As a formula-based program focused on the flexible, locally-determined use of funds, the grant is well suited to ensuring that a large number of geographically and socioeconomically diverse districts have resources they can direct in a manner that best addresses their particular needs. Title IV-A has continuously maintained bipartisan support in part because of the flexibility it affords states and districts to implement programming based on specific needs of their school community.

Like Congress, district leaders also favor the program's flexibility: In our 2023 survey of over 600 districts across the nation, the preliminary data continuously shows that district leaders appreciate the program's flexibility above all else. To that point, when asked about how districts invested in the many allowable uses across the three buckets, districts selected a wide-range of activities including, but not limited to: funding STEM and computer science, music and the arts, environmental education, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses (IB and AP), physical education, health and wellness, professional development for use of educational technology, violence prevention, behavioral and mental health supports and much more. Survey data also reveals that without these funds, the expansion of existing programs and creation of new programs would not be possible, making the amount of funding second to flexibility in terms of importance for districts. This federal investment is absolutely critical to supporting comprehensive student needs, ensuring a safe and healthy school

environment, and increasing access to a well-rounded education necessary for students to thrive in a modern society and workforce.

For these reasons, we must continue to invest in our nation's schools, educators, and most importantly, our students and we urge Congress to fund the SSAE flexible grant program at \$1.48 billion in FY24.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure these investments continue to support districts, educators, and students in a manner tailored to their unique needs.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations**

Communities In Schools

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

Advance CTE

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Committee for Children

Afterschool Alliance

All4Ed

American Federation of School Administrators

American Heart Association

American Library Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Psychological Association

American School Counselor Association

American School Counselor Association

AnitaB.org

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)

City Year, Inc

Coalition for Community Schools

Code.org

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

Council of Administrators of Special Education

EDGE Consulting Partners

Educational Theatre Association

Futures Without Violence  
 GLSEN  
 Institute for Educational Leadership  
 International Baccalaureate  
 Joint National Committee for Languages  
 League of American Orchestras  
 Learning Disabilities Association of America  
 Learning Forward  
 MENTOR  
 National Association for College Admission Counseling  
 National Association for Music Education  
 National Association of Elementary School Principals  
 National Association of School Nurses  
 National Association of School Psychologists  
 National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)  
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 National Center for Learning Disabilities  
 National Coalition for Technology in Education and Training  
 National Council for Languages and International Studies  
 National Council for the Social Studies  
 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
 National PTA  
 National Science Teaching Association  
 School-Based Health Alliance  
 SETDA  
 SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators  
 Society of Women Engineers  
 The Education Trust  
 Young Audiences Arts for Learning

**State and Local Organizations**

SHAPE Alaska	Alaska
Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling	Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon & Washington
SHAPE Arkansas	Arkansas
Association of California School Administrators	California
California Association of School Counselors	California

California Association of School Counselors	California
Colorado School Counselor Association	Colorado
Society for Health and Physical Education Colorado	Colorado
Connecticut Council for the Social Studies	Connecticut
CTAHPERD	Connecticut
New England ISTE	CT, MA, ME, NH, & VT
Florida Association of School Psychologists	Florida
Florida Association of School Psychologists	Florida
Florida School Counselor Association	Florida
Georgia Council for the Social Studies	Georgia
Great Plains Association for College Admissions Counseling	Great Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma)
Hawaii Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance	Hawaii
SHAPE Idaho	Idaho
Illinois AHPERD	Illinois
Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling	Illinois
Indiana Association of School Psychologists	Indiana
Indiana School Counselor Association	Indiana
Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling	Iowa
KAHPERD Kansas Association for Health Physical Education Recreation and Dance	Kansas
Kentucky Society for Technology in Education (KySTE)	Kentucky
Kentucky SHAPE	Kentucky
Louisiana School Psychological Association	Louisiana
Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators	Louisiana
Maine Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance	Maine
Maine School Counselor Association	Maine
Maryland Society for Educational Technology	Maryland
SHAPE Maryland	Maryland
Maryland School Counselor Association	Maryland
Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling (MACAC)	Michigan

SHAPE Michigan	Michigan
Minnesota School Counselor Association	Minnesota
MNSHAPE	Minnesota
Magnolia State School Counselor Association	Mississippi
Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals	Missouri
Missouri School Counselor Association	Missouri
Missouri Society of Health and Physical Educators	Missouri
SHAPE Montana	Montana
NSCSS	Nebraska
Society of Health and Physical Educators of Nebraska	Nebraska
NH Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (NHAHPERD)	New Hampshire
New Jersey School Counselor Association	New Jersey
New Jersey School Counselor Association	New Jersey
NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	New Jersey
New Mexico School Counselor Association	New Mexico
SHAPE New Mexico	New Mexico
New York State School Counselor Association	New York
NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance	New York
North Carolina School Counselor Association	North Carolina
ND SHAPE	North Dakota
NWOET	Ohio
Ohio AHPERD	Ohio
Ohio School Counselor Association	Ohio
Ohio School Counselor Association	Ohio
Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance	Oklahoma
Oregon School Psychologists Association	Oregon
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
PACAC	Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania School Counselors Association	Pennsylvania
Palmetto State School Counselor Association	South Carolina

South Carolina Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance	South Carolina
South Carolina Council for the Social Studies	South Carolina
Tennessee Association of School Psychologists	Tennessee
Texas Association for College Admission Counseling	Texas
Texas Computer Education Association	Texas
Texas Association for college admissions counselors	Texas
Lone Star State School Counselor Association	Texas
Society of Health and Physical Educators- Vermont	Vermont
Vermont Principals' Association	Vermont
Virginia School Counselor Association	Virginia
Virginia AHPERD Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance	Virginia
SHAPE Washington	Washington
SHAPE WV	West Virginia
West Virginia School Counselor Association	West Virginia
Wisconsin Health and Physical Education	Wisconsin
Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies	Wisconsin
Rocky Mountain Association for College Counseling	Wyoming
Natrona County High School	Wyoming