



March 10, 2017

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

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

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We are writing on behalf of the Friends of IES, a coalition of organizations committed to supporting the essential role of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), to encourage you to provide \$670 million for IES in the FY 2018 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies appropriations bill. Consistent with other scientific coalitions, this request builds on the FY 2016 final appropriation, accounting for inflation over the past two years as well as four-percent growth.

IES is the independent and nonpartisan statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education charged with providing and disseminating rigorous scientific evidence on which to ground education policy and practice. IES is comprised of four centers - National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Center for Education Research (NCER), National Center for Special Education Research (NCSE) and National Center for Education Evaluation (NCEE) - that work collaboratively to most efficiently and comprehensively deliver the research and evidence to best address our nation's most pressing education challenges.

An educated workforce is a necessary component of the nation's economy, and long-term, sustained investment in IES produces results that shape the development of practices and policies that reach all students. IES funds grants and contracts that support a wide range of research projects that provide vital information on public and private schools -including charter schools, teacher preparation, and strategies for improving college and workforce readiness, among other topics. This year, as states and school districts move forward to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which includes new evidence-based provisions, IES serves as a critical resource for decision makers, providing evidence, knowledge development and utilization, and research.

Federal funding has directly supported the efforts of states, local districts, and the research community to design, implement, and test new, innovative policies and practices to meet the unique needs of students, educators, and families. With continued federal support, we can expand the use of evidence and research in education decision making, increase efficiency, and support the most effective interventions to improve outcomes for individuals and families as envisioned under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Adequate funding for all IES programs in FY 2018 will enable the Institute to best support important research, data collection and statistical analysis, and dissemination. This work contributes to a growing evidence base that informs effective and efficient educational practice and policy across the nation.

We thank you for your support of IES and urge you to strengthen the research foundations of education by providing \$670 million to IES in the FY 2018 Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

American Educational Research Association
American Psychological Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of American Universities
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Exceptional Children
EDGE Consulting Partners
Education Development Center, Inc.
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Knowledge Alliance
Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
Penn State University
Population Association of America
Society for Research in Child Development
Success for All Foundation
University of Oregon
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
WestEd