

TITLE IV-A COALITION

Title IV-A Coalition disappointed President's FY20 Budget provides zero funds for flexible block grant meant to support well-rounded programs, safe and healthy schools, and the effective use of technology

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Title IV-A Coalition, we offer the following response to the Administration's elimination of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), in the FY20 budget:

Washington D.C., March 11, 2019— *"For the third year in a row, we are deeply disappointed by the Administration's Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposal to eliminate funding for the SSAE grant program despite districts finally being able to make use of these funds in a flexible and meaningful way to support students. The SSAE grant program under Title IV-A of ESSA is a flexible block grant that is designed to provide support for much needed student health and safety programs, well-rounded education programs, and the effective use of education technology.*

"The Administration's decision to zero out funding for this program—just as districts are utilizing the \$1.1 billion Congress provided in FY18 and before the Department of Education has done any data collection on how states and districts are using these funds to support critical school and student needs—shows a complete lack of commitment to the success of the program.

"We find it contradictory of the Administration and the Secretary to routinely highlight the value of SSAE block grant by pointing to the program in its reports (most recently, the Federal Commission on School Safety emphasized this program as a way of improving social emotional learning, school climate, and student safety) and speaking publicly about the flexibility and local control this program offers to districts to use funds based on their unique needs—but continuously call for the complete elimination of funding. Proposing the elimination of funding for the SSAE program for FY2020 reiterates the message this Administration continues sending to public schools: that it does not value investments in programs that make students safer at school, improve school climate, provide access to courses like AP, computer science, STEM, CTE, music and the arts, physical education, or ensuring educators are prepared to use technology for blended and digital learning.

"Defunding the SSAE program stands in stark contrast with the will of Congress, which recognizes the necessity of this investment, and we are thankful for the \$1.1 billion in FY18 and \$1.17 billion in FY19 appropriated over the last two years. In order to give districts the opportunity to continue making effective use of these funds to improve the lives of students, we sincerely urge Congress to fund the SSAE grant program at its authorized level of \$1.6 billion.

Members of the Title IV-A Coalition:

Advance CTE
Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Counseling Association
American Federation of School Administrators
American Heart Association
American Library Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American School Counselor Association
City Year
Committee for Children
Communities In Schools
CoSN
Futures Without Violence
Girl Scouts of the USA
International Baccalaureate Organization
International Society for Technology in Education
League of American Orchestras

National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National PTA
National Science Teachers Association
National Summer Learning Association
School Social Work Association of America
SETDA
SHAPE America
STEM Education Coalition
The College Board
Trust for America's Health
Young Audiences, Inc.