

# TITLE IV-A COALITION

## **Title IV-A Coalition concerned over President's FY21 Budget that disregards ESSA's structure, essentially eliminates SSAE grants under Title IV-A**

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Title IV-A Coalition, we offer the following response to the Administration's FY21 budget:

**Washington D.C., February 11, 2020**— *“While we are not surprised by the President's failure to provide adequate funding for public education programs under the Every Student Succeeds Act, we are deeply concerned that the FY21 budget proposal would violate congressional intent. The proposal aims to consolidate 29 discretionary education programs and combine them into a singular block grant while failing to provide equal to or more funding for the existing programs, resulting in a net cut. Specifically, we are dismayed that this Administration would cut Title IV-A of ESSA, the strongly bipartisan flexible block grant that provides funding for safe and healthy students, well-rounded programs, and the effective use of educational technology. Sadly, this budget is yet another demonstration of the Administration's complete lack of commitment to the success of the public education system and lack of respect for Congressional intent.*

*“Despite the Administration's false narrative that the Title IV-A flexible block grant is spread too thin and ineffective, there is ample evidence that districts are in fact, utilizing the now \$3 billion investment Congress has made since FY18 to support, expand, and create new programs that foster a safe and healthy school climate and learning environment. Further, while the Department of Education has yet to collect any specific data on how states and districts are using these funds to support critical school and student needs, the [Coalition's survey of 1,000 districts](#) across the country indicated that 90% of district leaders considered Title IV-A funding “very important”.*

*“Proposing the elimination of funding for the SSAE program for FY2021 reinforces the Administration's overriding message that it does not value investments in programs that make students safer at school, improve school climate, improve access to school mental and behavioral health services, provide access to courses like AP, computer science, STEM, music and the arts, physical education, libraries, and ensure educators are prepared to use technology for blended and digital learning.*

*“We call on Congress to keep ESSA intact, stand by its commitment to the SSAE program under Title IV-A, and fund the program at its fully authorized level of \$1.6 billion to provide school districts the opportunity to continue making effective use of these funds to improve the lives of students.*

## Members of the Title IV-A Coalition

Advance CTE  
Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for Excellent Education  
American Federation of School Administrators  
American Heart Association  
American Library Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American School Counselor Association  
Character.org  
City Year Inc.  
Committee for Children  
Communities In Schools  
CoSN - Consortium for School Networking  
Council of Administrators of Special Education, Inc (CASE)  
Educational Theatre Association  
Futures Without Violence  
Girl Scouts of the United States of America  
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 Teaching Association  
National Summer Learning Association  
School Social Work Association of America  
SHAPE America  
State Educational Technology Directors Association  
STEM Education Coalition  
The American Counseling Association  
The College Board  
Young Audiences, Inc.