The Title IV-A Coalition, made up of a large number of diverse national organizations, applauds Congress for providing robust increase to the flexible block grant in ESSA.

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Title IV-A Coalition, we offer the following response to FY18 Omnibus, which includes $1.1 billion for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized under Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Washington D.C., March 21, 2018 — The Title IV-A Coalition, comprised of more than 30 diverse organizations, is thrilled that Congress has provided $1.1 billion in FY18 funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program. This figure represents a 250% funding increase over last year’s inadequate level of $400 million and should allow the program to operate as a formula grant program, as Congress mandated in the law.

Most importantly, this level of funding will allow school districts to have true flexibility in determining how to meaningfully invest in and support programs that support safe and healthy students, a well-rounded academic curriculum, and an effective educational technology program. Due to last year’s low funding level, districts were stripped of this flexibility, and many did not have access to Title IV-A funds. We are extremely grateful for the recognition that this program needed more funds to operate successfully and look forward to continued appropriations at or above this level.

Title IV-A Coalition Members:
Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Heart Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
Committee for Children
Communities in Schools
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Futures Without Violence
Girl Scouts of the USA
International Baccalaureate Organization
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
League of American Orchestras
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
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 School Boards Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Summer Learning Association
School Social Work Association of America
SHAPE America
State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
STEM Ed Coalition
The American Counseling Association
The College Board
Trust for America's Health