May 7, 2018

Dear Senators Shelby, Leahy, Blunt, and Murray:

The undersigned national and state organizations write to request that the Committee provide full funding for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, found under Title IV, Part A of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The SSAE grant program, authorized at $1.6 billion for fiscal year 2019 (FY 2019), supports three important education areas: 1) safe and healthy students activities, such as providing comprehensive mental and behavioral health services to students and implementing gun violence prevention programs; 2) increasing student access to a well-rounded education, such as: STEM; computer science and accelerated learning courses; physical education; the arts; music; foreign languages; college and career counseling; effective school library programs; and, 3) providing students with access to technology and digital materials and educators with technology professional development opportunities.

We are grateful that Congress recognized the importance of Title IV-A and provided $1.1 billion in FY 2018 and strongly urge Congress to fully fund the SSAE program in FY 2019. This will provide districts enough funds and flexibility to make meaningful investments in priority program areas determined by their needs assessments. Additionally, this funding level obviates the need for a competitive option and allows the flexible block grant to operate as Congress intended, as a formula grant that benefits all districts equitably.

On behalf of the millions of students, parents and educators that we collectively represent, we urge you to please appropriate full funding in FY 2019 for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program under Title IV-A of ESSA and allow states and districts to make meaningful investments in programs that are critical to student success.

Sincerely,
National Organizations
Advance CTE
Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Counseling Association
American Dance Therapy Association
American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA)
American Orff-Schulwerk Association
American Psychological Association
American School Band Directors Association
American School Counselor Association
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)
Committee for Children
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of School Supervisors and Administrators
Drum Corps International
Education Through Music, Inc.
EducationPlus
El Sistema USA
Futures Without Violence
Girl Scouts of the USA
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
League of American Orchestras
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Little Kids Rock
Museum of Science, Boston
Music for All, Inc.
Music Teachers National Association
NAMM Foundation
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Federation of State High Schools Association (NFHS)
National Music Council
National PTA
National Science Teachers Association
National Summer Learning Association
Percussive Arts Society
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity
Progressive Music
Quadrant Research
QuaverMusic
School Social Work Association of America
SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators
Software and Information Industry Association
The College Board
Trust for America's Health
VH1 Save The Music Foundation

State and Local Organizations
Alabama
Alabama Music Educators Association
Anniston City Schools
Conecuh County Board of Education
Dothan City Schools
Elmore County Public Schools
Lowndes County Public School District
Midfield City Schools
Sheffield City Schools
Talladega City Schools
California
California Music Educators Association
Organization of American Kodály Educators
United Administrators of Oakland Schools
Western Association for College Admission Counseling
WURRLYedu

Colorado
Colorado Society of School Psychologists

Connecticut
Hartford Principals' and Supervisors' Association
Thompson Association of School Administrators

Delaware
Delaware Music Educators Association

Florida
Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP)
Florida Music Education Association

Georgia
Georgia Association of School Psychologists
Georgia K12 CTO CoSN Chapter

Hawaii
Hawaii ACAC
Hawaii Society for Technology in Education
Hawaii Music Education Association

Idaho
Idaho Music Educators Association
Idaho School Psychologist Association
Illinois
Illinois Computing Educators (ICE-IL)

Indiana
Indiana Association of School Psychologists
Indiana Music Educators Association

Iowa
Iowa ACAC
Iowa School Psychologists Association

Kansas
Kansas Music Educators Association

Kentucky
Kentucky Assoc for Psychology in the Schools (KAPS)
Kentucky Association for College Admission Counseling
Kentucky Music Educators Association

Louisiana
Louisiana School Psychological Association

Maine
Maine Music Educators Association

Maryland
Maryland Music Educators' Association
Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET)
Public School Administrators & Supervisors Association of Baltimore City
Strathmore

Massachusetts
Boston Association of School Administrators & Supervisors
Michigan
Gordon Institute for Music Learning
Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling
Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL)
Michigan Association for Media in Education
Michigan Association of School Psychologists

Minnesota
Armstrong Boulevard Brass Quintet
Minnesota Association of School Psychologists
Minnesota Music Educators Association
Minnesota Music Educators Association
Minnesota School Psychology Association

Mississippi
Mississippi Music Educators Association

Missouri
Midwest Education Technology Community (METC)
Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling
Missouri Association of School Psychologists
Missouri Music Educators Association

Montana
Montana Educational Technology Association (META)
Montana Music Educators Association

Nebraska
Nebraska Educational Technology Association (NETA)
Nebraska Music Education Association
Nebraska School Psychologists Association

Nevada
Nevada Association of School Psychologists
New Hampshire
New Hampshire Music Educators Association
New Hampshire Music Educators Association
New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education (NHSTE)

New Jersey
New Jersey Association of School Psychologists
New Jersey Music Educators Association

New Mexico
New Mexico Music Educators Association
Rocky Mountain Association for College Admissions Counseling
The New Mexico Society of Technology in Education

New York
New York Association of School Psychologists
New York State Association for Computers and Technologies in Education (NYSCATE)
New York State School Music Association
Yonkers Council of Administrators

North Carolina
North Carolina Music Educators Association
North Carolina Technology in Education Society

North Dakota
North Dakota Association of School Psychologists
North Dakota Music Educators Association
North Dakota Music Educators Association

Ohio
Ohio School Psychologists Association
The Ohio Association for College Admission Counseling
Oklahoma
Oklahoma School Psychological Association

Pennsylvania
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Tech (PAECT)
Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

Rhode Island
Rhode Island Music Education Association (RIMEA)
The Rhode Island School Psychologists Association

South Carolina
Southern Association for College Admission Counseling

Tennessee
Shelby County Schools
Tennessee Association of School Psychologists
Tennessee Educational Technology Association (TETA)
Tennessee Music Education Association

Texas
Texas Association for College Admissions Counseling
Texas Association of School Psychologists

Utah
Cache County School District
Utah Association of School Psychologists
Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET)
Utah Music Educators Association

Vermont
Vermont Association of School Psychologists
Vermont Music Educators Association
Virginia
Virginia Music Educators Association
Virginia Society for Technology in Education

Washington
Washington State Association of School Psychologists

West Virginia
West Virginia Music Educators Association

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling
Wisconsin Music Educators Association
Wisconsin School Psychologists Association

Wyoming
Wyoming Music Educators Association
Wyoming School Psychology Association