

**Broad coalition of groups release statement on President Obama's FY 17 funding request for Title IV of ESSA**  
**Urge Congress to adequately fund Title IV, Part A**

**Washington D.C. — February 16, 2016**

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we offer the following response to President Obama's proposed funding level for the Student Support & Academic Enhancement Grants (Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act, ESSA) in his proposed FY17 budget:

*"We applaud President Obama for his overall strong support for education in his FY17 budget proposal.*

*We are disappointed, however, that the President's budget only includes \$500 million for the Student Support & Academic Enhancement Grant program (ESSA, Title IV, Part A). Title IV, Part A represents a significant consolidation of previous programs, and this proposal is less than one-third of ESSA's \$1.65 billion authorization level. Indeed, we contend that the President's Title IV, Part A funding request fails to adequately reflect the importance that Congress attached to this program when it made it the third largest authorized program in ESSA.*

*We are also concerned that this funding proposal represents short-sighted policy: it will undermine the long-term success of Title IV because the amount proposed in the President's budget will not allow states and districts to make meaningful investments in a range of programs that will help students receive a well-rounded education, improve the conditions for student learning, and invest in educational technology.*

*Finally, we believe that such a low funding level will actually limit schools' flexible use of Title IV program funds. The reauthorized structure of Title IV in ESSA was a strongly bipartisan proposal, garnering the support of Republicans and Democrats alike, a proposal that President Obama himself signed into law. Part of its appeal was Title IV, Part A, which provides schools a bold opportunity to use the flexibility provided in the law to do critical, innovative work. Flexibility can only go so far in supporting school districts to stretch limited dollars, and a prohibitively low budget request like this one sets the stage for an overall funding level that not only mitigates flexibility, but is in direct conflict with Congressional intent.*

*In addition to our concern with the low funding level, we oppose the requested appropriations language that would allow states to limit or target the allowable uses in Title IV, Part A. By more adequately funding Title IV, Part A, Congress can eliminate the perceived need for this prescriptive language and can instead provide a funding level that more closely aligns with the spirit of the legislation."*

**Organizations Represented**

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance for Excellent Education  
American Art Therapy Association  
American Association of University Women  
American Council for School Social Work

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
American Counseling Association  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American School Counselor Association  
ASCD  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
Association of School Business Officials International  
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Collaborative for Academic and Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)  
College Board  
Committee for Children  
Consortium for School Networking  
Essilor Vision Foundation  
Futures Without Violence  
HealthCorps  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Interactive Health Technologies  
International Society for Technology in Education  
K-12, Inc  
Lions Clubs International  
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association *for* Music Education  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Pupil Services Administrators  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals  
National PTA  
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition  
National Rural Education Association  
Partnership for 21st Century Learning  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
School Social Work Association of America  
SHAPE America - Society of Health and Physical Educators  
State Education Technology Directors Association  
U.S. Soccer Foundation