



TITLE IV, PART A COALITION

Advocating for Full Funding of Title IV, Part A of ESSA

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Students, Educators, Members of Congress Rally for Title IV, Part A Funding at the Capitol

Washington, D.C., May 18, 2016: Against the backdrop of the U.S. Capitol, students, educators, a high school choir and Rep. Catherine Clark (D-MA) rallied to demand that Congress fully fund Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Authorized at \$1.65 billion in ESSA, Title IV, Part A is a flexible block grant that is intended to provide school districts with funds to support well-rounded academic programs, health and safety programs and education technology. The Title IV, Part A Coalition, a group comprised of more than 75 national non-profit groups, held today's rally to urge Congressional appropriators to provide this program with its fully authorized amount and to decry the President's budget request, which would fund it at less than one-third of its authorized level. The Coalition is using the Twitter hashtag: #MoreTitleIV.

The group also released individual letters from state and local groups in [Minnesota](#), [Missouri](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Washington](#), addressed to Senators Blunt, Murray and Alexander and Representatives Cole and Kline, that praise Title IV, Part A and seek appropriate funding for it.

Bookended between two rousing performances by Baltimore's Western High School Choir, students and educators spoke about the importance of the programs funded by Title IV, Part A:

Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA) said: "Now, it's time for Congress to live up to its word, follow through on its promise, and fully fund Title IV-A at its authorized level—just as we said we would in the Every Student Succeeds Act. This is not a partisan matter. A world-class education is our obligation to our children, and it's this Congress' duty to put their needs first."

Myra Thayer, Prek-12 Science Coordinator, Fairfax County Public Schools, said: "Providing students with hands-on learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), increasing access for underserved students, and integrating afterschool STEM experiences with classroom-based learning will improve instruction and student engagement in these fields. It's critical that Congress fully fund the ESSA Title IV-A, Student Support and Academic Enrichments Grants, so that all students have access to quality STEM programs, and to a variety of health and safety programs, diverse academic courses, and modern technology."

Ana Bonilla-Galdamez, a school social worker in Alexandria City Public Schools and the 2015 National School Social Worker of the Year, said: "Working with kids every day, I see first-hand the need for all students to have access to school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, and other specialized instructional support personnel...Full funding of Title IV is necessary to provide schools the support they need to provide a well-rounded curriculum and implement comprehensive mental and behavioral services that include prevention and wellness promotion, early identification and early intervention. Having full-time school-employed mental health professionals working in partnership with community services is the most effective way to make sure students are healthy and ready to learn."

Karen Richardson, the Executive Director of the Virginia Society for Technology in Education, said: "Fully funding Title IV, Part A would mean opportunities for all. It would allow school districts to invest in appropriate, on-demand professional development for educators, allowing them to not only understand how to use the latest digital tools and devices but to integrate them into their classroom curricula and personalize learning. It would allow districts to purchase devices, equipment, and software for their neediest students, helping close what we call the "homework gap" which prevents too many low-income and rural students from full participation in their

educations... It would allow districts to provide their students with the computer science and coding skills that will make them successful not just in high school but in college, the workplace, and life.”

Supporters of full Title IV, Part A funding issued the following statements:

Anna Maria Chávez, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of the USA, stated: “Women are poised to shape our economic future, and given the significance of STEM in today’s world, it’s more important than ever that we prepare girls and young women with the skills they will need for a future in STEM in partnership with local school districts. As these careers come to define America’s future, Girl Scouts is continuing our century-old tradition of preparing today’s girls to be tomorrow’s leaders.”

Mike Blakeslee, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for Music Education, stated: “Our music educators deliver an important role in enabling student success, and this new block grant would allow our educators to continue fulfilling this vital role. SSAEG provides a clear intent to support our nation’s schools through a “Well-Rounded Education,” and serves a critical aspect in improving access to music education for all students, providing a broad array of enriched educational experiences.”

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) stated: “The Student Support and Academic Achievement Grant has the potential to help schools fulfill that promise and provide a 21st Century education for their students. A number of programs that I championed during the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act – including giving students and teachers access to quality educational technology, ensuring support for physical and health education, supporting school counseling, addressing bullying and harassment and providing opportunities in foreign language education – are all supported by this grant.”

Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) stated: “I join over one hundred organizations within the Title IV Coalition in expressing deep concern about the Administration’s proposal to fund Title IV-A, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant, at less than one-third of its authorized funding level. For the school district I serve, Los Angeles Unified School District, the Administration’s proposal risks resulting in just \$11,000 for over 1,000 schools. At this reduced level, school districts will be seriously compromised in their ability to invest in crucial educational services. As a member of the House Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I remain committed to fighting for robust funding of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant, and I commend the Title IV Coalition for their vision and leadership in this effort.”

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