



The Honorable Roy Blunt
 Chair
 Labor, Health and Human Services,
 Education Appropriations Subcommittee
 Subcommittee 260 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
 Chair
 Labor, Health and Human Services,
 Education Appropriations
 Subcommittee 2467 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
 Ranking Member
 Labor, Health and Human Services,
 Education Appropriations Subcommittee
 Subcommittee 154 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
 Ranking Member
 Labor, Health and Human Services,
 Education Appropriations
 Subcommittee 2413 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

As teachers and school leaders from x states, we are writing to ask you to support full funding for Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). States use this funding to meet the essential goals of ensuring all students are taught by excellent teachers and all schools led by great principals – necessary conditions if we are to offer all students the greatest chance to succeed.

Through Title II, the federal government currently sends states \$2.3 billion per year for evidence-based investments that include the following:

- **Building Teacher Advancement and Leadership Opportunities**, such as career advancement initiatives that promote professional growth and emphasize multiple career paths, including instructional coaching and mentoring, hybrid roles that include classroom teaching and multi-classroom or schoolwide leadership responsibilities, and other opportunities for effective teachers to lead evidence-based professional development and provide support for their peers.
- **Improving Equitable access to Effective Teachers**, such as supporting evidence-based activities identified by the state that accelerate student achievement, improve teacher and

principal quality, and provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers and principals.

- **Recruiting and Preparing Teachers and Principals**, such as establishing teacher and/or principal preparation academies and residency programs that provide rigorous clinical experiences and are held accountable for preparing graduates who measurably improve student achievement.
- **Providing Better Support for Teachers and School Leaders**, such as evidence-based mentoring and induction programs for beginning teachers and principals that improve instruction and student achievement as well as the retention of effective teachers and principals .

Under ESSA, Title II emphasizes the use of strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in improving teaching and school leadership. Examples include sustained, job-embedded professional development for teachers and strategies to ensure principals are well-prepared and well-supported to create workplaces that support teachers' abilities to better understand student needs and adjust their teaching practice accordingly. We believe directly addressing teacher and school leader quality hold great promise for meeting a key goal of this bipartisan law: closing the achievement gap.

Curtailing Title II funding would also stop some important momentum as states move forward with implementation. A new [analysis by Education First](#) found that Title II offers opportunities, "now more than ever before, to design and fund strategies uniquely tailored to support school and teacher leaders...After reviewing their draft [state ESSA] plans, it's clear that states are seizing this opportunity and proposing innovative approaches to school leadership, teacher leadership, residencies and preparation academies."

As members of Teach Plus, Educators for Excellence, Learning Forward, Public Impact, The National Center for Teacher Residences, National Writing Project, New Leaders, NNSTOY, TNTP, and Stand for Children, we know that reducing Title II funding will make it harder for our schools, districts, and states to build the capacity necessary to implement ESSA successfully. Please support the students in your state, and every state, by continuing this funding.

If you have questions or would like to talk to teachers, principals, or other school leaders about the needs in their district or their experience with Title II, please contact Alice Cain at ajohnsoncain@teachplus.org, Margaret Young at myoung@newleaders.org, Berrick Abrahamson at berrick.abrahamson@TNTP.org, or Kerry Moll at kmoll@stand.org.

Sincerely,