



October 17, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of low-income students who have benefited from federal investments made under the Every Student Succeeds Act, including the opportunity to earn college credit in high school, thank you for including \$450 million for the FY2018 Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG) program.

Under ESSA, states can use SSAEG program funds to increase student access to “postsecondary-level instruction and examinations that are accepted for credit at institutions of higher education, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs.” In addition, Title IV funds expand access to critical STEM opportunities both inside and outside the classroom by providing federal resources for activities like STEM competitions, hands-on and field-based learning, and new, high-quality STEM courses, including computer science, in high-need schools.

Your commitment will help to provide continued access to accelerated learning programs, such as Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB), for these students. It will provide rigorous, college-level experiences, better prepare them for success in postsecondary education, and give them the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. The number of students benefitting from these programs has risen dramatically as a result of

federal funding, from approximately 50,000 low-income students when funding was introduced in 1999 to more than 550,000 in 2017.

These activities are included with a number of programs authorized under Title IV, Part A, to ensure that students have access to a well-rounded education, and additional programs that promote safe and healthy students, and equip schools with effective technology.

We ask the committee to adopt the House proposal to increase funding for Title IV, Part A from \$400 million in FY2017 to \$500 million in FY2018. This will allow the program to operate effectively as a formula grant, as the law intended, and will allow most states to provide the necessary resources to districts to support their students through a range of educational programs, including accelerated learning and STEM opportunities. Additional funding would be required in order to ensure that all districts in every state are able to make full use of Title IV, Part A dollars and we look forward to working with the Committee to fully fund the program.

The hundreds of thousands of students our organizations serve thank you for this steadfast commitment.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance  
Alliance For Excellent Education  
AVID  
Code.org  
The College Board  
Equal Opportunity Schools  
FIRST  
International Baccalaureate  
Military Child Education Coalition  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Math & Science Initiative  
National Science Teachers Association  
Society of Women Engineers  
STEM Education Coalition