



November 15, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chair Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger,

We write on behalf of the Friends of IES, a coalition of organizations committed to supporting the essential role of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), to highlight the continued need to invest in the important education research, statistical programs, and evidence-based resources that IES supports as part of fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations.

As you work to finalize FY2020 appropriations, we urge you, as part of any year end appropriations agreement, to increase funding for IES to \$650 million. This level of funding was included in the House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill for IES and will strengthen the agency's ability to support emerging lines of inquiry and tackle pressing questions about education, such as what can be done to increase school safety, address challenges facing rural districts, support improved teacher professional development, and bolster the impact of technology in the classroom.

Without this increase, or under a level-funded continuing resolution (CR), we are concerned about the impact of limited funding on core statistical surveys that inform our knowledge on the condition of education; research in all areas, including special education; the National Assessment of Educational Progress; and dissemination of evidence-based practices to teachers, school leaders, and policymakers. A robust investment in IES will provide the resources needed to produce data and research to inform policy decisions and support teaching and learning.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to continue working with you to ensure that IES has the necessary funding in FY 2020 to support research, statistics, evaluation, and technical assistance to improve educational outcomes.

Sincerely,

American Educational Research Association
American Psychological Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
EDGE Consulting Partners
Education Development Center
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Florida State University
Knowledge Alliance
LEARN Coalition
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lehigh University
Literacy Research Association
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
National Council on Teacher Quality
Population Association of America
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness
University of Florida
University of Oregon
University of Virginia
University of Washington College of Education
Vanderbilt University