



National Coalition on
**Personnel Shortages
in Special Education
and Related Services**

May 2, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the National Coalition of Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NCPSSERS), we urge you to support funding in FY 2023 to ensure our nation's schools are equipped to serve all of our students. NCPSSERS is a diverse coalition dedicated to addressing the shortages of special education teachers and administrators and specialized instructional support personnel. Schools, districts, and early childhood programs need sustained funding to provide essential services to infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, many of whom struggled to access early intervention and education services through the pandemic. Critical staffing shortages of special education teachers, early interventionists, and specialized instructional support personnel certainly contributed to this lack of access during school closures, but these shortages pre-dated and were only exacerbated by the pandemic. NCPSSERS urges Congress to invest in programs that support these practitioners and the students they serve.

Moreover, Congress should enact a glidepath to full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a commitment made to states in 1975 when the law was first passed. That commitment was a federal funding level of up to forty percent of the excess costs of educating children with disabilities. Fiscal Year 2022 funding for IDEA Part B grants to states was \$13.34 billion, which equates to approximately 13 percent of the authorized amount. State and local budgets must cover the federal shortfall, estimated at more than \$23 billion. Likewise, Congress must provide a meaningful investment in early intervention and the full continuum of IDEA programs to ensure the law operates as intended.

This year, the Administration recognized this historic underfunding and put forward landmark proposals for FY 2023 that would significantly increase programs that support infants, toddlers, children, and youth

with disabilities, their families, and the teachers and other providers who serve them. Thus, we respectfully request no less than the following amounts for each program within IDEA in FY 2023:

- Part B Section 611 (Grants to States): \$16.2 billion.
- Part B Section 619 (Preschool Grants): \$503 million.
- Part C (Grants to serve infants and toddlers): \$932 million.
- Part D (National Activities):
 - State Personnel Development: \$39 million.
 - Technical Assistance and Dissemination: \$49 million.
 - Personnel Preparation: an increase to \$300 million.
 - Parent Training and Information Centers: \$45 million.
 - Media and Technology: \$32 million.

Additionally, we respectfully request funding in the following amounts for additional programs that impact education and outcomes for individuals with disabilities:

- National Center for Special Education Research (within IES): \$70 million
- ESSA Title I: \$36.5 billion.
- ESSA Title II-Part A: \$ 3 billion.
- ESSA Title II: \$2.5 billion.
- ESSA Title IV-Part A: \$2 billion.
- School-Based Health Professional program (proposed): \$1 billion.

As districts and schools work to address anticipated instructional loss, mental health challenges, and other adverse pandemic-related impacts of COVID-19 for students with disabilities, the need for additional IDEA funding is critical and cannot be overstated. A significant increase in federal funding for IDEA would ensure funding is available for programs that can benefit all children, including children with disabilities.

We urge you to provide no less than the amounts noted above. Thank you for considering our views as you work toward reaching an agreement on the FY 2023 Labor-HHS-ED appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
National Association of School Nurses

National Association of School Psychologists

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID)

National Education Association

Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators

Ohio Department of Education - Columbus, OH