

December 11, 2023

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515-3701

The Honorable Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
271 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515-3801

Dear Representatives Bonamici and Fitzpatrick,

We, the undersigned, write in support of the New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act. The bill will strengthen education R&D to dramatically improve outcomes and experiences for teachers and learners. The future of education will require innovations and evidence-based practices that can only be unlocked by investing in research and development to help prepare all students for a globally competitive world.

The 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores for 9 year-olds revealed the largest drop in reading scores since 1990 and a 7-point decline in math. NAEP scores for 13 year-olds are similarly bleak. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted unprecedented learning loss and exacerbated existing disparities in student achievement. The loss of one-third of a year of learning translates to an economic downturn of \$14.2 trillion and threatens national competitiveness. The NEED Act will accelerate efforts to reverse this trend by advancing breakthrough ideas to improve teaching and learning.

The NEED Act will establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE) at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Modeled after the success of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Defense Department's renowned R&D incubator, NCADE will have the hiring flexibility to bring creative and nimble project managers that can lead multidisciplinary teams to conduct informed-risk, high-reward projects. Specifically, NCADE will fund projects to develop cutting-edge practices, breakthrough technologies, and pedagogical approaches based on their potential to transform education.

The NEED Act will also expand and upgrade the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) program. This will help states better track students' progress through K-12 and into the workforce, integrate data across multiple domains, ensure the privacy of students' education records, and generate high-quality data in actionable formats. The modernization of SLDS will ensure that state data systems can be an effective tool to inform translational and use-driven research, resulting in meaningful and measurable benefits in school districts and postsecondary institutions.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. We look forward to working with you to prioritize this legislation to become law.

Sincerely,

Accelerate

Advanced Education Research and Development Fund (AERDF)

All4Ed

Alliance for Learning Innovation  
America Forward  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)  
American Educational Research Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Psychological Association Services  
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)  
Beyond100K  
CAST, Inc.  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Committee for Children  
Common Sense Media  
Data Quality Campaign  
Data Science 4 Everyone  
Digital Promise Global  
EDGE Consulting Partners  
Education Reform Now  
Education Reimagined  
Educators for Excellence  
ExcelinEd in Action  
Federation of American Scientists  
Formation Ventures  
Foundation for American Innovation  
InnovateEDU  
Institute for Educational Leadership  
John Bailey, Former White House Domestic Policy Advisor  
Kathy Stack, Senior Fellow, Tobin Center for Economic Policy, Yale University; Former Deputy Associate Director for Education, Income Maintenance and Labor, White House Office of Management and Budget  
Knowledge Alliance  
Kumar Garg, Schmidt Futures  
LearnerStudio  
LearningForge LLC  
Lehigh University

Luminary Labs

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)

New Classrooms

New Leaders

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Pamela Cantor MD

Results for America

SETDA

Teach Plus

Texas Behavioral Science and Policy Institute, University of Texas at Austin

The Education Trust

The Learning Agency

The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)

The Tech Interactive

Thomas B. Fordham Institute

TNTP

Transcend