Title IV-A Coalition disappointed in the Administration’s elimination of the flexible block grant meant to support well-rounded programs, safe and healthy schools, and the effective use of technology in FY19 budget

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Title IV-A Coalition, we offer the following response to the Administration’s elimination of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program, authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), in the FY19 budget:

Washington D.C., February 12, 2017 — “We are yet again deeply disappointed by the Administration’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget proposal to completely eliminate the SSAE grant program in its third year of existence. The SSAE grant program under Title IV-A of ESSA is a flexible block grant that is designed to provide support for much needed health and safety programs, well-rounded education programs, and the effective use of education technology.

“The Administration’s decision to zero out funding for this program, before many districts have even had a chance to use their FY17 funds to support these initiatives and prove that this flexible block grant program is a worthy investment, is extremely shortsighted. Additionally, it sends a clear signal to local school districts that this Administration does not value investments in areas like educational technology, mental health programs (including resources in schools to deal with the opioid crisis), and supporting a well-rounded curriculum, which includes computer science—all of which the SSAE grant program funds support. Defunding the single program that gives actual control and flexibility of education back to the local districts stands in stark contrast with the will of Congress and frankly, what the President and Secretary DeVos have said about this issue.

“We are encouraged that Congress has recognized the importance of the SSAE grant programs in its FY18 appropriations bills and hope that it will see fit to provide substantial increases in FY18 and FY19 now that the budget deal has passed. We sincerely urge Congress to fund the SSAE grant program at its authorized level of $1.6 billion, giving local districts the ability to make effective use of Title IV-A investments.”

Afterschool Alliance
Alliance for Excellent Education
American Heart Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
Communities In Schools
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
Futures Without Violence
Girl Scouts of the USA
International Baccalaureate Organization
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
League of American Orchestras
Museum of Science, Boston
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National PTA
National School Boards Association
National Science Teachers Association
National Summer Learning Association
School Social Work Association of America
SHAPE America
State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA)
The American Counseling Association
The College Board