

Auburn University  
College of Education

Boston University  
Wheelock College of Education and Human  
Development

Boston College  
Lynch School of Education

Georgia State University  
College of Education & Human Development

Indiana University  
School of Education

Iowa State University  
College of Human Sciences

John Hopkins University  
School of Education

North Carolina State University  
College of Education

Oklahoma University  
Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education

Penn State University  
College of Education

Purdue University  
College of Education

Syracuse University  
School of Education

Texas A&M University  
College of Education and Human Development

The Ohio State University  
College of Education and Human Ecology

University of Arizona  
School of Education

University of Alabama  
College of Education

University of California – Santa Barbara  
Gevirtz Graduate School of Education

University of Central Florida  
College of Community Innovation and Education

University of Connecticut  
Neag School of Education

University of Florida  
College of Education

University of Georgia  
School of Education

University of Houston  
College of Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
College of Education

University of Kansas  
School of Education

University of Maryland College Park  
College of Education

University of Minnesota  
College of Education and Human Development

University of Missouri  
College of Education

University of Nevada-Reno  
College of Education

University of North Carolina  
School of Education

University of Oregon  
College of Education

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Education

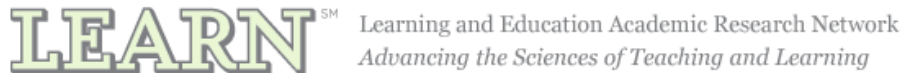
University of Southern California  
Rossier School of Education

University of Vermont  
College of Education and Social Services

University of Wisconsin – Madison  
School of Education

Vanderbilt University  
Peabody College of Education and Human  
Development

Virginia Commonwealth University  
School of Education



November 1, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

We are writing on behalf of the Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN) Coalition to express our support for increased funding for several key education research programs as a part of any final Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations legislation. LEARN, a coalition of 38 leading research colleges of education across the country, supports critical investments in research aimed at advancing the scientific understanding of learning and development. We advocate for greater funding for priorities across all Federal agencies, including the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

We urge you to finalize FY2020 appropriations before the current continuing resolution (CR) expires on November 21, and also ask that as part of any year end appropriations agreement, to increase funding for IES to \$650 million. This level of funding would match the amount included in the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for IES and is essential to developing a comprehensive, reliable evidence base, and ensuring that teaching and learning practices are grounded in scientifically valid research.

Within the \$650 million for IES, LEARN supports significant investments in key education research programs specifically \$205.4 million for the Research, Development and Dissemination account and \$61 million for the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER). These increases are critically needed as only one out of every 10 applications are funded by IES, due to budget constraints, presenting lost opportunities to further strengthen evidence-based practice across the education spectrum.

LEARN is also deeply appreciative of the continued, bipartisan, bicameral support for the proposed increases to the NIH budget. The Coalition urges you to adopt the proposed Senate levels of funding for NICHD and NIMH. The Senate levels of \$1.59 billion for NICHD and \$2.08 billion for NIMH will ensure the work under those directorates compliment and expand upon the work being done by IES.

Additionally, we greatly appreciate the increase that both chambers provided for NSF and recognize that the House-passed mark of \$8.6 billion would place NSF on the upward funding trajectory that it needs to continue U.S. leadership in science and technology. We request that Congress appropriate at least \$8.6 billion for NSF in FY2020. We respectfully suggest, however, that additional funds are needed to address the effects of years of underinvestment in the fundamental scientific research supported by NSF.

[www.learncoalition.org](http://www.learncoalition.org) ♦ [info@learncoalition.org](mailto:info@learncoalition.org)

According to the National Science Board, approximately \$3.92 billion of cutting-edge research deemed “very good or higher” in NSF’s merit criteria was unfunded in FY2017. The potential impact of these missed opportunities is even more stark when considering the return on investment of fundamental scientific research and the significant investments that other nations –both allies and adversaries–are making in comparable research areas. In addition to our call for a \$9 billion funding level for NSF overall, LEARN specifically supports funding for NSF’s Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate, at \$1.010 billion in FY2020. Specifically, funding for the EHR Directorate has stagnated for many years, leaving critical gaps in our ability to address fundamental challenges for K-12, undergraduate, and graduate STEM education. We urge you to support these funding levels in a final appropriations bill.

The LEARN Coalition believes strongly that without these increases, or under a level funded Continuing Regulation (CR), there will be a significant negative impact on education research. Thank you for considering these requests and please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)  
Dean of the College of Education, University of Florida

Camilla P. Benbow, Ed.D.  
Co-Chair, Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)  
Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development of the Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University

Rick Ginsberg, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Learning and Education Academic Research Network (LEARN)  
Dean of the School of Education, University of Kansas