

SELS 2019 Legislative Recommendations



EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Provide \$14 billion to fully fund IDEA's Part B Program in the FFY 2020 appropriations bills.
- Support and co-sponsor the IDEA Full Funding Act (Part B), H.R. 1878 (Huffman, D-CA) and S. 866 (Van Hollen, D-MD).
- Provide \$537 million to fully fund IDEA's Part B Section 619 Program in the FFY 2020 appropriations bill.
- Provide \$722 million to fully fund IDEA's Part C Early Intervention Program in the FFY 2020 appropriations bills.



EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Provide \$254 million to fund IDEA's Part D Program in the FFY 2020 appropriations bills.
- Provide \$70 million to fund the National Center for Special Education Research (Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences) in the FFY 2020 appropriations bills.
- Provide \$32 million to fund the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act in the FFY 2020 appropriations bills



IDEA Investments in Early Childhood

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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Co-sponsor and support the House bill Funding Early Childhood in IDEA is the Right IDEA, which creates new authorization levels for IDEA Part C and Part B Section 619 (preschool) programs. Sponsor and support a similar bill in the Senate.
- Co-sponsor and support the Child Care for Working Families Act, H.R. 1364 (Scott, D-VA) and S. 568 (Murray, D-WA), which contains specific provisions and funding for children receiving services under IDEA.



IDEA Investments in Early Childhood

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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Increase investment in services and supports in FFY 2020 for young children with disabilities and their families through provision of:
 - \$537 million in funding for IDEA Part B, Preschool Special Education Program (Section 619), and
 - \$722 million in funding for IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program.



Keep Public Funds in Public Education

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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Support efforts that maintain and enhance the use of public funds for public education and services offered through public school districts.
- Oppose the use of public funds for families to access private education through private school vouchers, tuition tax credits, direct tuition payments, taxpayer savings accounts, scholarships, and portability of public funds to private education entities for all students, including students with disabilities, as they are contrary to the best interests of students and their families, the public school system, local communities, and taxpayers.



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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Oppose the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunity Act, S. 634 (Cruz, R-TX), that would expand elementary, secondary and vocational education opportunities for students by providing a federal tax credit to encourage individuals and business to donate to nonprofit scholarship funds.





Shortages of Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention Providers

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Provide \$102 million in FFY 2020 to fund IDEA Part D Personnel Preparation Grants that support aspiring special educators (teachers, early intervention providers, and administrators) and doctoral-level leaders (faculty in colleges and universities and special education administrators).
- Provide \$48 million in FFY 2020 to fund IDEA Part D State Personnel Grants to assist states to reform and improve personnel preparation and professional development.





Shortages of Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention Providers

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Strengthen and improve the implementation of the Higher Education Act TEACH Grant Program for students preparing to be teachers in high-need fields.
- Provide \$53 million in FFY 2020 to fund the Higher Education Act Teacher Quality Partnership Grant Program supporting higher education PK-12 partnerships to expand clinical preparation for educators in high-need fields and in low-income schools





Shortages of Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention Providers

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Strengthen the Higher Education Act Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, and the Loan Forgiveness for Service in Areas of National Need.
- Co-sponsor and support the Educator Preparation Reform Act, S. 969 (Reed, D-RI), to strengthen and update Title II of the Higher Education Act.
- Co-sponsor and support Supporting the Teaching Profession Through Revitalizing Investments in Valuable Educators Act (STRIVE), S. 1866 (Booker, D-NJ) and H.R. 3139 (Norcross, D-NJ), strengthening the federal investment in recruiting, preparing, and retaining education and early childhood personnel and diversifying the teacher workforce.



Shortages of Special Education Teachers and Early Intervention Providers

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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Co-sponsor and support Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals Act (PREP), S. 752 (Kaine, D-VA), strengthening the federal investment in “grow-your-own” programs which diversify the teaching workforce, and expanding this effort to include early childhood providers.
- Include education administrators and specialized instructional support personnel in any legislation applicable to addressing education shortages.





Mental Health: Building Positive Climates for Learning

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Provide \$2.55 billion for ESSA Title II, Part A in FFY 2020 to ensure educators are prepared to implement evidence-based mental health interventions.
- Provide \$1.6 billion to fund ESSA Title IV, Part A in FFY 2020 to support schools and early childhood programs to hire social workers, counselors, and psychologists.





Mental Health: Building Positive Climates for Learning

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Co-sponsor and support the Resilience Investment, Support, and Expansion (RISE) from Trauma Act, S. 1770 (Durbin, D-IL, Capito, R-WV) and H.R. 3180 (Davis, D-IL, Gallagher R-WI), strengthening support for children who have been exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma through building a trauma-informed workforce and increasing resources for communities to support children who have experienced trauma.
- Maintain the current structure and funding for Medicaid that allows for reimbursement for IDEA services.





Mental Health: Building Positive Climates for Learning

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Support legislative policies that increase access to mental health services through private health insurance and Medicaid.
- Support policy and funding for services and community interventions for children and youth who experience trauma, environmental stress, and mental health symptoms and disorders.
- Support policy and funding that promote prevention and an interdisciplinary partnership among education, early learning, juvenile justice, mental health, and community health providers to ensure the social and emotional well-being of all children and youth.

