



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

June 21, 2021

Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman

Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member

Honorable Patty Murray, Chairwoman

Honorable Roy Blunt

On behalf of the National Coalition of Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NCPSSERS), we applaud the Biden Administration for these historic investments in public education. We commend the Administration's investment physical and mental health in schools through the \$1 billion commitment for school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, school nurses and other Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) that are so needed, especially in light of the pandemic. Prior to COVID-19 there were already significant shortages of these much needed professionals and long term investments are needed to recruit and retain these professionals that provide needed wrap around support to students. We hope to work with Congress on these needed long term investment in Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) that support students academic success.

Further, we applaud the Administration's investment in our nation's educators through the Teachers Quality Partnerships which would be funded at \$400 million; \$60 million for the Augustus Hawkins Centers of Excellence to help diversify the teacher pipeline; \$1.6 billion to support 100,000 teachers in high-demand areas; and \$30 million to recruit and train school leaders. As with SISP, the pandemic has shone a light on shortages in education and critical investments must be made. We urge Congress to make the necessary appropriations necessary to provide our children with the best teachers possible.

We applaud the Administration's commitment to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). We appreciate that the Administration wants to increase Title I by \$20 billion for underserved communities through new grant programs. However, NCSPERS would rather see Congress appropriate this money into existing programs in the FY 2022 cycle until there are clear parameters to the Administration's proposals. We appreciate the President's request for a slight increase over FY 2021 for Title II-A, but request that Congress appropriate \$3 billion. Title

IV-A is a flexible formula grant program that provides investments in activities that support access to a well rounded education, support safe and healthy students, and improve the effective use of education technology. We urge that Congress provide \$2 billion for Title IV-A.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has been chronically underfunded; Congress has never met its promise of providing 40 percent of the cost of IDEA. We salute the Administration for increasing IDEA monies to \$15.5 billion, a \$2.6 billion increase over FY 2021 and urge Congress to appropriate these funds.

While we applaud the overall spending and investment increases that the Administration has put forth, we were extremely disappointed that not once was the term, “Specialized Instructional Support Personnel” (SISP) was used in their documentation, despite being named in the Every Student Succeeds Act. As Congress moves forward with the appropriations process, we ask that the explicit mention of SISP in legislative text and report language to provide clarity to state and local leaders that specific funds can be used to provide increased access to specialized instructional support services and personnel.

Please consider our recommendations regarding personnel shortages as you consider the FY 2022 appropriations, as well as the role of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP). If you have any questions or would to speak with us regarding our proposals, please don’t hesitate to contact the NCSPERS co-chairs, Piper Largent (plargent@nasn.org); Stacey Glasgow (sglasgow@asha.org); and Stacy Skalski (sskalski@naspweb.org).

Sincerely,

AG Bell Association for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American School Counselor Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Learning Disabilities Association of America
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Consortium on Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities
Ohio Association of Pupil Service Administrators
School Social Work Association of America