

PTA URGES CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

WHO WE ARE

PTA is a network of millions of families, students, teachers, administrators and business and community leaders devoted to the well-being and educational success of all children. We are the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America, with a presence in every state and 18,000 PTA units across the country and abroad.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

The long-term success of our nation depends on quality federal investments in our education system and our children. However, the U.S. currently *only invests about 3%* of the regular federal budget on education. Unfortunately, this year many essential federal programs that support children, families and schools are at risk of being underfunded or eliminated by Congress. As parents and guardians, we know the importance of funding education and insist that children and families remain a priority in any appropriations package that Congress develops.

PTA Urges Congress to Ensure That Programs Supporting Children, Families and Schools Are Fully Funded in FY2024 and FY2025

- Lawmakers in Congress are currently deciding how much money to spend on essential services and programs that support children, families and schools across the country. At a time when our education system and families are strained—impacted by learning loss, mental health, absenteeism, educator staff shortages and more—is the time to *increase, not decrease* federal investments that uplift our nation’s families and schools.
- Any federal funding package that receives consideration by the 118th Congress **must at a minimum fund key programs under the U.S. Department of Education, including:**
 - **At least \$79.4 billion in overall funding for the U.S. Department of Education**, consistent with the Senate Appropriations Committee’s proposal for FY2024.
 - **\$36.5 billion for Title I under the Every Student Succeeds Act** to provide all students, especially those living in low-income households, with the support needed to succeed.
 - **\$2 billion for Title II-A, the Supporting Effective Instruction State grant program** to invest in high-quality teachers, principals and other school leaders.
 - **\$2 billion for Title III under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act** to support English learners in every state and territory.
 - **\$1.48 billion for Title IV-A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants** to provide all students access to a well-rounded education.

- **\$25 million for Title IV-E, the Statewide Family Engagement Centers grant program** to uplift the parent voice and strengthen family-school partnerships across the nation. Check if your member of Congress is already on record supporting the program [here](#).
 - **\$16.2 billion for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act**, with the ultimate goal of full funding for IDEA programs and services that support students with disabilities.
- Congress must also fund other essential programs and initiatives supporting children, families and schools, **including increased funding to:**
- Promote youth mental health and social-emotional learning.
 - Address school staffing shortages and support the educator pipeline.
 - Expand broadband access and enhance digital infrastructure to ensure equity.
 - Implement strategies for academic recovery, such as summer learning and after-school enrichment programs.
 - Strengthen child nutrition, including through SNAP, WIC and school meal programs.
 - Prevent and address childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences.
 - Enhance the physical safety of school buildings through investments in emergency planning, infrastructure improvements and physical security measures that do not undermine the learning environment.
 - Expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early learning programs.
 - Invest in community and youth violence intervention and prevention work.
 - Improve and modernize school infrastructure.

Questions? Email National PTA Director of Government Affairs Kate Clabaugh (kclabaugh@PTA.org).