

For Immediate Release

Contact: ally.talcott@alliedforprogress.com

Washington, DC (June 2, 2025) – President Trump's FY26 Budget proposes unlawful structural changes to congressionally authorized bipartisan programs and would devastate public education systems.

The <u>Title IV-A Coalition</u> is an alliance of dozens of national organizations working together to advocate for full funding and the successful implementation of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants under Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This flexible formula grant, which continues to enjoy bipartisan support and funding from Congress, is designed to ensure that districts have access to programs that foster safe and healthy students, provide students with a well-rounded education, and increase the effective use of technology in our nation's schools.

Ally Talcott, Executive Director of the TItle IV-A Coalition issued the following statement in response:

"Since it was first authorized, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program, under Title IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), has enjoyed bipartisan support from Congress. It is a program with a proven track record of success and is highly popular with school district leaders throughout the country, mainly due to its flexibility. Arbitrarily making unlawful structural changes to the Title IV-A program and other critical K-12 education programs threatens to undermine students' academic success and well-being in every district nationwide.

In the 2024 survey of over 1000 superintendents, 85% of district leaders said they strongly support the Title IV-A program due to its flexibility to invest in the unique needs of the district. Additionally, they call for more funding—not less—to fulfill their central mission of providing our students with the programs, resources, and support they need to thrive and succeed. And yet, the President's budget proposes collapsing dozens of programs that receive over \$6 billion into what they are calling a "more simplified" \$2 billion grant program. This represents a 70% cut to carry out the same programs with less. There will be nothing simplified for districts to manage with these kinds of cuts.

We urge Congress not to continue letting this administration trample all over its lawmaking and funding authorities granted by the Constitution and call on Congress to continue investing in the highly successful SSAE program under TItle IV-A of ESSA.

###