



COVID Relief and Recovery and FY22 Appropriations

[Knowledge Alliance](#), a non-partisan, non-profit, is comprised of leading education organizations committed since 1971 to the greater use of high-quality and relevant data, research, evaluation, and innovation in education policy and practice at all levels. Collectively, we promote the use of rigorous research to figure out “what works,” and why, to improve student outcomes and then share those findings with policymakers, practitioners, and the general public.

The need to focus on what works for students, educators and school leaders using research and evidence-based practices has always been critical, but now more than ever it is imperative as our nation’s education system seeks to recover and meet the profound learning and social and emotional needs of students due to the pandemic. We cannot confront these challenges without research and evidenced-based interventions.

COVID Relief and Recovery Funding

Knowledge Alliance is appreciative of congressional efforts to address critical research and recovery efforts in response to the pandemic that focus on the academic, social, and emotional learning losses and other related needs for our nation’s students. ***We urge Congress to enact the following provisions included in the House reconciliation bill:***

- \$100 million for the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) to carry out research to address learning loss caused by COVID-19 and widely disseminate those findings to state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies (LEAs), educators and other stakeholders.
- Requirement that evidence-based learning loss interventions respond to student’s academic, social and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on subgroups of students described in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) through the SEA set-aside of at least 5 percent and the LEA set-aside of at least 20 percent of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

FY22 Appropriations

Congress must make a significant investment in the current federal education research and development (R&D) infrastructure, which includes the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) and the Research Development and Dissemination (RD&D) program at IES, as well as the Comprehensive Centers (CCs) and the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) programs at the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

For FY2022, we urge Congress to provide at least a 10 percent increase in funding over FY2021 levels for critical IES and ED programs that provide the support needed to leverage critical research, technical assistance, evaluation, and innovation to help states, districts and schools meet the academic and social emotional learning (SEL) needs of students in remote, hybrid and in-person settings now and in the future.



For more information on Knowledge Alliance’s policy priorities, contact Jacki Ball at jball@knowledgeall.net

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For FY22, we urge Congress to:

- **Provide at least \$700 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES):** Building off the funding expected under reconciliation, this appropriation would provide needed resources across IES to test and scale up successful interventions to address learning loss, particularly for those students who have faced significant barriers to educational access over the last year. Additional funding for IES will also ensure the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has the necessary investments to provide valuable information on student learning as well as data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools through the 2021 NAEP School Survey.
- **Appropriate at least \$217.8 million for the Research Development and Dissemination (RD&D) program at IES:** With additional resources, the National Center for Education Research (NCER) RD&D program, which funds basic research using rigorous research methodologies, including randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental approaches, can continue and expand work in areas of importance to educators and policy makers including learning loss, and college and workforce readiness.
- **Fund the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) program at a minimum of \$62.7 million:** RELs conduct applied research, develop, and disseminate research-based products and provide training to states and school district staff as well as resources for educators, families, and caregivers. RELs can also form research partnerships focused on problems of practice in the field that provide relevant and responsive research and findings that address local needs. Additional funding is needed to research and support growing local and regional needs to respond to the impact of the pandemic on academic, social and emotional learning.
- **Provide at least \$57.2 million for the Comprehensive Centers (CCs):** Currently there are 19 Regional Centers that work closely with SEAs in their regions on implementation of significant improvements and innovations in elementary and secondary education, as well as one national center providing technical assistance to the regional centers and SEAs. Increased funding will allow the Centers to respond to the expanded needs of SEAs as they plan for years of post-pandemic recovery.
- **Specify a minimum of \$213.4 million for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program:** Authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), EIR supports the development and scale-up of successful educational interventions at the state and local levels. EIR uses a tiered-evidence approach that has two important design principles: (1) it provides more funds to programs with higher levels of evidence, and (2) it requires rigorous and independent evaluations so that programs continue to improve, and the evidence continues to build. Increased funding for EIR would allow additional scale of effective programs that focus on the recovery needs of districts.

