



## Recommendations for U.S. Department of Education

[Knowledge Alliance](#) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on learning and applying what works to dramatically improve education. We advocate for the greater use of research-based knowledge in education policy and practice at the federal, state, and local levels. We are comprised of leading education organizations that are dedicated to solving some of the biggest challenges facing our schools today through the development and use of high-quality, relevant research.

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. We encourage the use of the existing federal education research and development (R&D) infrastructure to support on-the-ground efforts to address student learning loss and the rapid testing of interventions. For example, the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) can play an important role in testing teaching and learning interventions, evaluating them, and disseminating that information broadly to education stakeholders. The Comprehensive Centers (CCs) can play a complementary role in providing intensive technical assistance to State Education Agencies (SEAs) on the policies and practices that will help address learning loss and help them plan for years of post-pandemic recovery.

However, all of this work will require additional funding and effective policy implementation to evaluate and ramp up effective interventions to address learning loss and the social and emotional impacts of the pandemic on students. Knowledge Alliance and its member organizations stand ready to work with the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to implement effective, and evidence-based programs and practices to support states, districts, school, and educators to meet students' needs.

***We recommend the Administration support existing federal education R&D infrastructure by providing at least the following funding for key programs in its FY2022 budget request:***

- \$700 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
- \$217.8 million for the Research Development and Dissemination (RD&D) program at IES
- \$62.7 million for the Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs) program
- \$57.2 million for the Comprehensive Centers (CCs)
- \$213.4 million for the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program

***We recommend the following administrative actions to support more robust research and evidence-based practice in education:***

- Prioritize the use of evidence and evaluation in every Federal education program to promote equity and effectiveness.
- Pursue the reauthorization of the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA) to update our nation's education R&D infrastructure to meet the pressing needs arising from the pandemic,



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address racial and social inequities and align with current federal education law to be prepared for future critical events that can dramatically upend how schools operate.

- Work with the White House to appoint qualified individuals to the National Board for Education Sciences (NBES), with a priority for practitioners as well as education researchers with the methodological expertise to help inform federal policies and educational research priorities in an unbiased manner.
- Leverage existing Institute of Education Sciences' (IES) centers, with input from stakeholders, to carry out research related to addressing learning loss and evidence-based interventions that respond to students' academic, social and emotional needs due to COVID-19, especially for at-risk subgroups.
- Ensure IES' research on learning loss due to COVID-19 is widely disseminated and in an understandable, easily accessible, and usable format that is adaptable for use in educational practice by state and district personnel, school leaders, teachers, librarians, other instructional staff in K12 schools, and parents.

