

December 7, 2023

Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable William M. Cassidy, MD  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

We congratulate the Committee on releasing a bipartisan draft of the Advancing Research in Education Act (AREA), a reauthorization of the Education Sciences and Reform Act (ESRA). The bill is a strong first step in the long overdue reauthorization of ESRA and we applaud your bipartisan approach. There are many strengths of the bill that will drive the production of actionable data and evidence to support practitioners to improve teaching and learning, make education research more responsive to students and teachers and increase locally driven education data, research, evaluations, and evidence use.

To meet these important goals, federal statute should provide a framework to States, districts, schools, and practitioners to assist them in classifying evidence. Thus, we, the undersigned organizations write to provide recommendations specifically on the definition of “evidence-based.” **We recommend adopting the ESEA definition of evidence, incorporating levels such as supported by strong evidence, moderate evidence, promising evidence, or evidence that demonstrates a rationale.** This adjustment also provides for a consistent definition of “evidence” across ED programs and statutes.

We appreciate your bipartisan efforts to date and are committed to working with you to ensure this reauthorization of ESRA continues to support strong, timely, and actionable education evidence in a bipartisan manner.

Sincerely,

Knowledge Alliance	ETS	National Center for Learning
Data Quality Campaign	Federation of American	Disabilities
AASA, The School	Scientists	New Leaders
Superintendents Association	FHI360	Pamela Cantor MD LLC
Alliance for Learning Innovation	KnowledgeWorks	Robin Hood Learning +
America Forward	LEARN Coalition	Technology Fund
American Federation of	LearningForge LLC	The Education Trust
Teachers	National Alliance for Public	UnidosUS
Association of Public and Land-	Charter Schools	UT Austin
Grant Universities	National Association of State	
EDGE Consulting Partners	Boards of Education	