



November 20, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairs Cole and Collins, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Murray,

The [Alliance for Learning Innovation \(ALI\)](https://alicoalition.org) respectfully requests robust funding for education research and development (R&D) in the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations bills. ALI is a coalition that brings together nonprofits, researchers, practitioners, funders, and private sector innovators committed to transforming education through R&D. As Congress works to finalize FY 2026 spending in the context of National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores showing persistent declines, the need to accelerate learning through evidence-based practices has never been greater.

Strong investment in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), the Department of Education's (ED) Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, and the education and workforce efforts at the National Science Foundation (NSF) will ensure that federally-funded R&D provides local leaders with the evidence needed to base their decisions on what is proven to work. Federal R&D should include mechanisms to address education, workforce development, and translation efforts.

Within the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-H) bill, we respectfully request that Congress provide:

- At least \$793.1 million for IES. Within this amount, ALI requests continued support for the Accelerate, Transform, and Scale initiative, at least \$28.5 million for Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant program, and continued support for the School Pulse Panel. ALI celebrates the recent From Seedlings to Scale grant program (ALN 84.305J) awards, which Congress supported in the FY 2023 appropriations bill. ALI appreciates the report language encouraging support for innovative learning models and creating scalable, high-impact solutions to improve education outcomes for all learners and eliminate persistent achievement and attainment gaps. We encourage continued efforts to ensure SLDS linkages and to provide guidance and technical assistance on integrated data systems and protecting student and worker privacy.
- At least \$235 million for ED's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's EIR program to support the development, scaling, and evaluation of evidence-based innovations in teaching and learning.



Within the Commerce, Justice, Science bill, we urge Congress to provide:

- At least \$1.0 billion for the STEM EDU Directorate at NSF and continued support for the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) and Centers for Transformative Education Research and Translation as authorized in the *CHIPS and Science Act*. ALI is concerned about substantial cuts and grant cancellations at the NSF Directorate for STEM Education. The Directorate funds critical workforce training programs, research to improve STEM education at all levels, and important programs that broaden participation in STEM and ensure that we can harness talent from all regions of our country. ALI also supports at least \$10 million to support connections between education and workforce development via the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Workforce Training Grants.

ALI strongly encourages the conference agreement to provide explicit support for maintaining existing education R&D grants, contracts, and federal staff. In other sectors, like medicine, technology, and energy, R&D is the backbone of continuous improvement. R&D builds the capacity to solve problems over time, under real-world conditions, with evidence to guide decisions. ALI strongly encourages Congress to provide rigorous support for federal education R&D funding and innovation, especially as the US looks to a future of teaching and learning influenced by AI and other emerging technologies.

Sincerely,  
Alliance for Learning Innovation

Accelerate - The National Collaborative for Accelerated Learning  
AERDF (Advanced Education Research and Development Fund)  
All4Ed  
American Chemical Society  
American Institutes for Research (AIR)  
ASTC  
CareerVillage.org  
CAST  
Common Sense Media  
Dan Lips, Senior Fellow, Foundation for American Innovation  
Data Quality Campaign  
Digital Promise Global  
Donald J. Peurach, Co-Director, Improvement Scholars Network  
Earth Force  
EdSolutions, Inc  
EdTrust  
Education Collaboratory at Yale  
Education Knowledge Broker Network  
Education Modified  
Education Reform Now

Education Reimagined  
Evidence Advocacy Center  
Federation of American Scientists  
FullScale  
Foundation for Deeper Learning  
High Tech High Graduate School of Education  
Imagine Network  
InnovateEDU  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
jeffweldLLC  
Jim Kohlmoos, EDGE Partners  
Jobs for the Future  
Knowledge Alliance  
Learning Heroes  
LearningForge LLC  
Linda Diamond, Executive Director, Evidence Advocacy Center  
Matthew Finster, PhD  
Melanie Dukes  
Modern States Education Alliance  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
New Classrooms  
Nexus Strategy Group  
Project Evident



## **Alliance For Learning Innovation**

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SETDA  
Software & Information Industry Association  
SRI Education  
STEM Ecosystems, powered by TIES  
StriveTogether  
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The Tech Interactive  
TIES  
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