

May 14, 2024

Senator Tammy Baldwin
Chair, LHHS Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Robert Aderholt
Chair, LHHS Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, LHHS Subcommittee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, LHHS Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Capito, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We, the undersigned 162 organizations, write to urge you to include \$2 billion for the English Language Acquisition program, authorized by Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), without cutting funding for other education programs, in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations legislation. Title III provides English learner (EL) students access to the resources they need to attain English language proficiency and meet the same challenging academic standards that their non-EL peers must meet. Five million EL students are enrolled in our public schools, representing one in ten of all K-12 public school students.* It is critical that Congress make a robust investment in the education of EL students to ensure the success of our nation.

A large body of evidence shows that providing EL students with an adequate education requires additional per-pupil funding compared to non-EL students.† However, funding for Title III has not kept pace with the growing EL student population. For example, the number of EL students grew by 11% from 2010 to 2020 but Title III appropriations only increased by 5% during that same timeframe.‡ Title III was level funded at \$890 million in FY 2024, only providing an average of \$173 per EL student. Without increases in funding for Title III, per pupil funding will continue to decrease due to the growing numbers of EL students and inflationary pressures. Appropriating \$2 billion for Title III will provide a more adequate average of \$400 per EL student.

* Office of English Language Acquisition. (2022, August 01). English Learners: Demographic Trends. National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition. <https://ncela.ed.gov/resources/fact-sheet-english-learners-demographic-trends-august-2022-1>

† Office of English Language Acquisition. (2024, January 25). English Learner Educational Experiences and Opportunities: A Report Using Federal Datasets. National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition. <https://ncela.ed.gov/resources/report-english-learner-educational-experiences-and-opportunities-a-report-using-federal-0>

‡ National Center for Education Statistics. (2023, May). English Learners in Public Schools. <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cgf/english-learners>

Insufficient funding for Title III has contributed to the persistence of wide academic achievement gaps. The results of the 2022 National Assessment of Education Progress showed that only 15% of EL students scored proficient or above in 4th grade math compared to 40% of their non-EL peers. Similarly, only 4% of EL students scored proficient or above in 8th grade math compared to 28% of native English speakers.* While it is anticipated that EL students may trail their peers until they achieve English language proficiency, these figures highlight the significant gap they must overcome to reach their peers' level.

The EL student population is diverse and brings significant assets to the classroom. However, they face significant barriers in their educational journey. Unfortunately, data shows that EL students are more likely to attend schools with less experienced teachers. EL students are also underrepresented in advanced courses and gifted and talented programs. They are also more likely to be retained in their grade level.†

Increased federal investments to support this student population can help address these challenges. Schools in all fifty states rely on Title III funds to help EL students reach their full potential. Title III funds enable them to provide EL students with targeted resources, including enhanced language instruction and community engagement programming. Funds also provide for professional development for teachers and staff working with EL students.

The undersigned organizations respectfully urge you to include \$2 billion for Title III in FY 2025, without cutting funding for other education programs. We are committed to supporting our nation's more than five million EL students to ensure that they have access to a high-quality education. Our prosperity as a nation depends on their success.‡ Should you have any questions, please contact Lina Lenis, K-12 Policy Analyst, Education Policy Project, UnidosUS at Llenis@unidosus.org.

National Organizations

All4Ed

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American Translators Association

APIA Scholars

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)

ASPIRA Association, Inc.

Association of Language Companies

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS)

AVANCE, Inc.

CASA, Inc.

* National Assessment of Educational Progress. (2022). <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>

† Office of English Language Acquisition. (2024, January 25). English Learner Educational Experiences and Opportunities: A Report Using Federal Datasets. National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition. <https://ncela.ed.gov/resources/report-english-learner-educational-experiences-and-opportunities-a-report-using-federal-0>

‡ Office of English Language Acquisition. (2024, January 25). English Learner Educational Experiences and Opportunities: A Report Using Federal Datasets. National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition. <https://ncela.ed.gov/resources/report-english-learner-educational-experiences-and-opportunities-a-report-using-federal-0>

National Organizations

Center for Applied Linguistics
Center for Equity for English Learners, Loyola Marymount University
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
Education Leaders of Color
Education Policy Program at New America
Education Reform Now
English Learners Success Forum
Friends Of Puerto Rico
Fugees Family
Housing and Education Alliance (HEA)
IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association)
ImmSchools
Inlier Learning
Instruction Partners
Internationals Network for Public Schools
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Joint National Committee for Languages (JNCL)
Kids in Need of Defense
MALDEF
Migrant Legal Action Program, Inc.
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)
National Association of English Learner Program Administrators
National Center for Families Learning
National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment
(National PLACE)
National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities
National Council for Languages and International Studies
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Education Association (NEA)
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association (NMSHSA)
National Multilingual Services
National Newcomer Network
National Parents Union (NPU)
National PTA
National Women's Law Center
Re-Imagining Migration
Teach Plus
TESOL International Association

National Organizations

The Century Foundation's K-12 Education Team
The Education Trust
TNTP
UnidosUS
United Migrant Opportunity Services

Arizona

Aliento Education Fund
Arizona Latino Leaders In Education (ALL In Education)
Comite De Bien Estar
Promise Arizona

California

BHC Monterey County
Building Skills Partnership
California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE)
Californians Together
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
Community HousingWorks
ConXión To Community
Early Edge California
East Bay Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation
East LA Community Corporation
Eastmont Community Center
El Sol Science and Arts Academy
Haven Neighborhood Services
La Raza Community Resource Center
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)
Para Los Niños
Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)
Public Advocates
PUENTE Learning Center
Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL)
The Alliance For Community Wellness
YPI Charter Schools
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc.
SBCS

Colorado

Mi Casa Resource Center
PEAK Parent Center

District of Columbia

Central American Resource Center

Florida

Enterprising Latinas, Inc.
Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La Inc.
Hispanic Services Council, Inc.
Latino Leadership, Inc.
LULAC Florida
Mexican American Council

Georgia

Ser Familia, Inc.
Latin American Association

Hawaii

Hawai'i TESOL
Hawaii Coalition for Immigrant Rights

Illinois

Acero Schools
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Centro Romero
Erie Neighborhood House
LULAC-IL Council #5296
Portage Park Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Migrant Council
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Latino Policy Forum
The Resurrection Project

Kansas

USD 383 - M
El Centro, Inc.

Louisiana

Puentes

Maryland

The Parents' Place of MD

Massachusetts

Lawrence CommunityWorks

Michigan

Voces

Mid-Atlantic Region

ASPIRA of the Mid-Atlantic

Minnesota

Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School

Nebraska

Nebraska Commission on Latino Americans

Nevada

Community Services of Nevada (CSNV)

New Jersey

Association for Special Children and Families

Family Voices NJ

New Jersey Consortium for Immigrant Children

NJTESOL-NJBE

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

New Mexico

New Mexico Public Education Department

New York

Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Inc.

Dominico-American Society of Queens

Ibero-American Action League, Inc.

Jamestown City School District

New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE)

Pavilion CSD

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families

North Carolina

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Ohio

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc.

Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development (NEOHCED)

Pennsylvania

Centro Hispano Daniel Torres, Inc.

Pennsylvania

Congreso de Latinos Unidos
Education Law Center Pennsylvania
Latino Community Center
Tec Centro Workforce Network
LCH Health and Community Services

Puerto Rico

Corporación Desarrollo Económico, Vivienda y Salud (CODEVYS) Inc.
One Stop Career Center of PR, Inc.

South Carolina

Hispanic Alliance

Tennessee

Centro Hispano de East Tennessee
La Paz Chattanooga

Texas

Avenida Guadalupe Association
Breakthrough Central Texas
Children at Risk
Con Mi MADRE
Every Texan
Latino Texas Policy Center
Multicultural Family Center
Project Vida
Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE)
Texas State Teachers Association
The Education Trust in Texas

Utah

Comunidades Unidas

Virginia

Edu-Futuro

Washington

Inspire Development Centers
Sea Mar Community Health Centers