

June 24, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Dear Chairwomen Murray and DeLauro and Ranking Members Blunt and Cole:

On behalf of the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL), Committee for Children, and the **102 national organizations; 17 state organizations; and 18 local organizations** focused on the advancement of evidence-based social emotional learning (SEL) signed below, we urge you to continue building on the historic funding levels for children and education provided by the *American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act* by prioritizing SEL funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget. **As the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bill, we urge you to fund programs that support SEL at least at \$784 million.**

Educators, child advocates, mental health professionals, and other community members who together serve and support millions of young people and adults, are depending on continuing support beyond the crises of COVID-19 and racial inequity. This school year has been like none other and our recovery will require a commitment at the highest levels of government to build the social and emotional skills needed to help keep students safe and to overcome the traumas occurring both inside and outside of school. Our students, teachers, families, and communities have dealt with unexpected loss, grief, and instability that has impacted our collective well-being in profound ways. Additionally, students and educators are reliant on SEL skills to help address learning loss and increase academic outcomes for students who are now further behind than ever before. Adults will need to utilize these skills as they reenter the workforce in-person, reorienting to different styles of collaboration and communication. In historically and systemically marginalized communities, the impact of the crises has been multi-layered, significant, and demonstrative of the coming needs across all of America.

While funding already appropriated has been crucial to alleviating many of the traumas brought upon communities, incorporating SEL into the foundation of education will require sustained funding. Ensuring the FY 2022 budget includes such funding will go a long way to helping communities normalize SEL as part of their recovery efforts.

To support the growth of SEL programs, we are requesting \$784 million to support the following programs:

\$170 million within the **Education Innovation and Research** program for grants for evidence-based, field-initiated innovations that address student social, emotional, and cognitive needs.

\$25 million dedicated within the **Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED)**

WWA
xSEL Labs
YMCA of the USA

State Organizations

Buffalo Hanover Montrose Schools
Carver Public Schools
EDMO®
Garden State Esports
Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART)
Massachusetts School Psychologist's Association
NAMI South Carolina
SEL Educators
SEL4CA
SEL4NJ
SEL4PA
SEL4OR
SEL4SC
Social and Emotional Learning Alliance for Ohio
Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for Texas (SEL4TX.org)
South Carolina PTA
University of Virginia

Local Organizations

American Renaissance School
Center for Social-Emotional Learning
Communities In Schools of the Midlands
Dream a World Education
Early Childhood Specialties LLC
Effective Youth Solutions
Grinnell-Newburg Community School District
Holly Area Schools
Marquette-Alger Technical Middle College
NJ Teacher 2 Teacher, LLC.
Positive Archer Solutions
Rainbow Days, Inc.
SAIL CoLab, LLC
Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative
Soul Shoppe Programs
Sound Supports
Wyman
Young Women's Project

Endnotes

¹Durlak, J. A., Weissberg, R. P., Dymnicki, A. B., Taylor, R. D., & Schellinger, K. (2011). The impact of enhancing students' social and emotional learning: A meta-analysis of school-based universal interventions. *Child Development*, 82, 405-432.

² Taylor, R. D., Oberle, E., Durlak