April 28, 2014

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Moran,

As the national and state organizations advocating on behalf of the 95,000 principals, assistant principals, school leaders and school administrators across the country, we respectfully request that you address a critical need related to on-going support for these instructional leaders. Specifically, our organizations are asking for language to amend Title II, Part A, Sec. 2123 (a) of ESEA to increase support for the professional learning and development of the nation’s elementary, middle level and high school principals in the FY 2015 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Research has shown that effective school leadership is second only to direct classroom instruction as a key contributing factor to raising student achievement. However, a 2013 report from the U.S. Department of Education on “The Use of Funds Under Title II,” or Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), shows that only 4 percent of federal dollars are spent on principal professional development. This is extremely troubling, because Title II acts as the primary federal program to improve educator performance. As the roles and responsibilities of school leaders continue to expand, principals must be afforded additional opportunities for professional learning and growth as they work to improve teaching and learning in all schools.

Principals are not only operational leaders responsible for establishing a safe, supportive and personalized school environment, they are also instructional leaders, providing on-going coaching and mentoring to teachers and students. Furthermore, there are a multitude of additional demands placed on principals as a result of increased federal, state and local regulations concerning a variety of new reform initiatives in schools, such as the implementation of college and career-ready standards and new teacher evaluation systems, school improvement models, and accountability requirements.
To help build the capacity of principals, and provide them with the timely support they need now, we are requesting that the FY 2015 Senate Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill include language that requires local education agencies receiving Title II funds from ESEA to allocate no less than 10 percent of the total funds available for professional development for pre-k, elementary, middle level and high school principals to improve instructional leadership.

We ask that you support this provision to ensure that all principals and school leaders are provided with high-quality professional learning and development activities to improve instructional leadership practice. Thank you for your consideration of our request, which will ultimately help improve the educational experience of each student.

Diann Woodard
President
AFSA

Gail Connelly
Executive Director
NAESP

JoAnn Bartoletti
Executive Director
NASSP

State Affiliates and Locals:

Alabama
Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators
Alabama Association of Secondary School Principals

Alaska
Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals
Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals
Arizona
Arizona School Administrators

Arkansas
Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals
Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals

California
Association of California School Administrators
California Federation of School Administrators
United Administrators of Oakland Schools
United Administrators of San Francisco

Colorado
Colorado Association of School Executives

Connecticut
Association of Hamden Public Schools Administrators
Bloomfield Administrators Association
Bridgeport Council of Administrators and Supervisors
Cheshire Administrative Personnel
Connecticut Federation of School Administrators
Hartford Support Supervisors Association
New Britain Association of Administrators, Supervisors & Directors
Newtown Association of School Administrators
Thompson Association of School Administrators

Delaware
Delaware Association of School Administrators

District of Columbia
Council of School Officers
District of Columbia Association of Secondary School Principals

Florida
Florida Association of School Administrators

Georgia
Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals

Hawaii
Hawaii Elementary and Middle School Administrators’ Association
Idaho
Idaho Association of School Administrators

Illinois
Chicago Principals and Administrators Association
Illinois Principals Association

Indiana
Indiana Association of School Principals

Iowa
School Administrators of Iowa

Kansas
Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals

Kentucky
Kentucky Association of Elementary School Principals
Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals

Louisiana
Louisiana Association of Principals

Maine
Auburn School Administrators' Association
Maine Principals' Association

Maryland
Association of Supervisory & Administrative School Personnel
Kent County Administrative and Supervisory Association
Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals
Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals
Public School Administrators & Supervisors Association of Baltimore City

Massachusetts
Boston Association of School Administrators & Supervisors
Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association
Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators’ Association

Michigan
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
Michigan Elementary and Middle School Association
Organization of School Administrators & Supervisors
Wyandotte Administrative Association
Minnesota
Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association

Mississippi
Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals

Missouri
Administrators Association of the St. Louis Public Schools
Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals
Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals

Montana
Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals
Montana Association of Secondary School Principals

Nevada
Nevada Association of School Administrators

New Hampshire
New Hampshire Association of School Principals

New Jersey
City Association of Supervisors and Administrators
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association

New Mexico
New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals
New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals

New York
Buffalo Council of Supervisors & Administrators
Council of School Supervisors and Administrators
New York State Federation of School Administrators
School Administrators Association of New York State
Yonkers Council of Administrators

North Carolina
North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals’ Association

North Dakota
North Dakota Association of Elementary Principals
North Dakota Association of Secondary Principals
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders
Ohio
Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators

Oklahoma
Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals
Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals

Oregon
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators
Oregon Elementary School Principals Association
Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators

Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals

Rhode Island
Rhode Island Association of School Principals

South Carolina
South Carolina Association of School Administrators

South Dakota
School Administrators of South Dakota

Tennessee
Tennessee Principals Association
Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals

Texas
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association

Utah
Utah Association of Secondary School Principals

Vermont
Vermont Principals’ Association

Virginia
Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals

Washington
Association of Washington School Principals
West Virginia
West Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals

Wisconsin
Association of Wisconsin School Principals

Wyoming
Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals
Wyoming Association of Secondary School Principals