March 25, 2015

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

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 funding concern related to the use of federal funds for ongoing support for our nation’s instructional leaders.

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, as Title II acts as the primary federal program to improve educator performance, and principals play a unique role in ensuring that our nation’s students are college and career ready. As the roles and responsibilities of school leaders continue to expand, Title II must be reoriented to provide the nation’s principals with the necessary opportunities for professional learning and growth as they work to improve teaching and learning in all schools. We believe Congress intended to support principals in ESEA, but states and districts have dramatically underfunded and not adequately supported the role of principals as they work to improve instruction and increase student achievement.

While we believe the report language included in H.R. 83, the FY2015 Omnibus (Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act), was a step in the right direction to address the issues with underinvestment in principals as ESEA intended. We believe that Congress must allocate no less than 10 percent of Title II, Part A funds, specifically 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 FY2016 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

As our organizations work with the authorizing committees of jurisdiction to more thoroughly address the needs of principals in the renewal of ESEA, appropriate support for the role of principals is needed immediately. Congress must provide direction in the appropriation of the Title II funds to ensure that states and districts respond effectively to meet the immediate needs of principals leading the nation’s schools. Principals are not only operational leaders responsible for establishing a safe, supportive, and personalized school environment; they are also instructional leaders, providing ongoing coaching and mentoring to teachers and students.
Furthermore, there are a multitude of demands now placed on principals as a result of increased federal, state, and local regulations concerning a variety of new reform initiatives, such as the implementation of college and career ready standards, new teacher evaluation systems, school improvement models, and new federal accountability requirements.

We ask that you support the 10 percent allocation of Title II funds now so 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 this request, which will impact the lives of over 33 million students in our nation’s public schools.

Sincerely,

JoAnn D. Bartoletti  
Executive Director, NASSP

Gail Connelly  
Executive Director, NAESP

Diann Woodard  
President, AFSA

State and Local Organizations:

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

**Alaska**
- Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals

**Arizona**
- Arizona School Administrators

**Arkansas**
- Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals
- Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals

**California**
- California Federation of School Administrators
- United Administrators of Oakland Schools

**Connecticut**
- Association of Hamden Public Schools Administrators
- Bloomfield Administrators Association
- Bridgeport Council of Administrators and Supervisors
- Cheshire Administrative Personnel
- 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 Elementary School Principals
Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals

Idaho
Idaho Association of School Administrators

Illinois
Chicago Principals and Administrators Association
Illinois Principals Association

Iowa
School Administrators of Iowa

Indiana
Indiana Association of School Principals

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 Principals Association
Organization of School Administrators & Supervisors
Wyandotte Administrative Association

Minnesota
Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association

Mississippi
Mississippi Association of Elementary School Principals

Missouri
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 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

North Carolina
North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals’ Association

North Dakota
North Dakota Association of Elementary School Principals
North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals
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

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

Tennessee
Tennessee Association of Secondary School Principals

Texas
Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association

Utah
Utah Association of Secondary School Principals

Vermont
Vermont Principals’ Association

Washington
Association of Washington School Principals

West Virginia
West Virginia Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals
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