

Sample Call Script

STEP 1: Call the US Capitol switchboard (202-224-3121) and ask for your Senators' or Representative's offices.

STEP 2: When connected, ask to speak with the staffer handling education appropriations. If the staffer is unavailable, ask to leave a voicemail.

If you are connected directly to a live person, deliver these talking points:

1. Introduce yourself, say what school or school district you work in, and what your role is in the school or district.
2. I am calling to ask you to **support the \$500 million increase for Title II, Part A** that was part of the House of Representatives approved in its Labor/HHS/Education funding bill for fiscal 2020.
3. Title II-A is the only federal funding dedicated for professional learning for all teachers and leaders and must be fully funded in order for teachers and principals to meet the needs of the students they serve.
4. Title II-A has not seen an increase in more than a decade and, in fact, has seen cuts due to across the board spending cuts. We are asking teachers and leaders to increase achievement for students without giving them the ongoing, job-embedded, school-based professional learning that they need to be able to meet their students' needs.
5. Our state received \$__ (INSERT STATE FUNDING NUMBER) in Title IIA funds last year.
 - a. If you know what your district is using Title IIA dollars for say: My school district has used Title IIA funds to...
 - b. If you do NOT know what your district is using Title IIA dollars for say: Title II supports:
 - instructional coaching and mentoring;
 - professional learning in content and pedagogy;
 - specialized training for teachers and principals to meet individual student needs;
 - implementation support for personalized learning, effective instructional materials and technology; and
 - leadership development for principals.
6. I know these are tough budget times but I believe there is no more important priority than meeting the needs of our children and the best way to do that is by supporting teachers and leaders.
7. Thank you for your time and I hope that you will work to provide this much needed increase for this important program.

If you are connected to voicemail, leave the following message:

"Hello, my name is ____ and I am a (insert job title) in ____ school district in ____ STATE). I am calling to urge you to support an increase in funding in fiscal 2020 for Title II-A of ESSA, the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program. The House of Representatives approved this increase in its FY2020 Labor/HHS/Education spending bill and we need to make sure the Senate follows suit. Our state received \$__ million from this program last year and my district used these dollars to _____. If these funds are cut or eliminated, educators will lose jobs, training will be curtailed, and education will suffer. I hope you will supporting increasing funding for this program in the final appropriations bill. If you would like to contact me, I can be reached at: (insert phone number or email)."'