

Members of Congress are currently in their districts – and CoSN needs your help in reaching out to your Senators and Representatives to let them know how important the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program is to your district and your students. This is a key time for you to contact them about increased funding for ed tech, [a top priority for CoSN's advocacy efforts](#).

Background

Under the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), school districts can use funds under the “Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants” a flexible block grant program, to support a wide range of activities to provide students with a well-rounded education, support programs that support safe and healthy students, and provide for the effective use of technology.

Congress authorized this program at \$1.65 billion, but the President's budget for Fiscal Year 2017 only proposes \$500 million. If Congress only appropriates \$500 million or less for this program, it will have a critical negative impact on school districts' ability to carry out these types of programs. Congress will soon be making a decision on funding levels.

Action

Here are five actions that you can take while Congress is home during the district work period.

First, find the contact information for your Representatives and Senators on [//www.house.gov/representatives/find/](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/) or <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>. There you will see that each Congressional Member provides contact information for both their DC and district offices.

Need to identify your Congressional representatives. Go to [CoSN advocacy website](#) and enter your zip code.

Second, contact the District Office to request an in-office meeting with the Member when s/he is in town. You can use the attached two-pager to explain the grant program and why it is important. At the meeting, you can also hand the staff member the attached sign-on letter as evidence of the depth of support for these programs from a broad range of groups, including CoSN. If possible, identify other constituents from the Member's district who can join you at the meeting. Be prepared to explain why this grant program is important to your schools and districts and student served. **Your specific ask is to provide full funding (\$1.65 billion) for Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act.** When thinking of constituents who can join you at the meeting, you should feel free to think broadly beyond education. For instance, religious and business leaders could provide a valuable perspective.

Third, if you are unable to secure an in-office meeting, find out if the Member will be having public meetings while in the District, such as town halls, so that you can attend and ask his/her position on supporting full funding for Title IV, Part A. You can use the attached fact sheet for information about the program. Be prepared to make your "ask" quickly and concisely. The two-pager gives some points you may want to highlight, but please also include your own experience.

Fourth, if you do not have time to attend an in-person meeting, please call the DC office of the Member (usually located on their website) and ask to speak to the legislative assistant who handles education issues. If you have trouble finding the number, you can always call the Capitol Hill switchboard at [\(202\) 224-3121](#). If the legislative assistant is not in, you can leave a voicemail with your ask.

Fifth, use the [CoSN Advocacy Network](#) to send a letter to your Congressional representatives now.

Questions or follow up? Contact irene@cosn.org.

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to reach out to your member of Congress during this critical time. Thanks so much – and let me know if there are any questions.