



December 20, 2021

Representative Jared Huffman
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chris Van Hollen
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear The Honorable Jared Huffman and The Honorable Chris Van Hollen:

We are writing on behalf of the Association of California School Administrators and the California School Boards Association (ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership) to voice our support for H.R. 5984 and S. 3213, the IDEA Full Funding Act, and fulfilling Congress's promise to pay 40 percent of the costs of special education services for students.

The ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership seeks to prepare students for success and to equip all young people with the knowledge and skills required for college, the workforce, and civic engagement by creating a coherent system of equitable funding and continuous improvement for our schools that serve nearly 6.2 million students. Our focus, and the focus of the California K-12 education system, is on providing every student with the instruction and support they need for success in college and the workforce.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the significant impact that the current health crisis has had on students with disabilities, it is essential that Congress continue to support groundbreaking investments in special education services and fully fund IDEA. [Recent research from NWEA](#) indicates that students with disabilities may be at particularly high risk for learning loss as a result of the pandemic's disruptions to schooling in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and now 2021-2022 academic years.

The additional funding included in the American Rescue Plan, and historic funding increases approved by the House of Representatives in the FY22 Labor, Health, and Human Services appropriations bill are an important first step on the path to fully funding IDEA. But increases through the appropriations process still need to be approved by the Senate, and the American Rescue Plan funding will eventually expire.

Therefore, we believe Congress must do more to fully fund IDEA, and that is why we completely support the IDEA Full Funding Act, and the mandatory funding increases that will finally realize Congress's original promise to pay 40 percent of the costs of special education services. Under the IDEA Full Funding Act, California's share of federal special education funding would be \$3.3 billion. Today, it is \$1.33 billion, far below the level it should be to provide students with disabilities that the services they need.

The ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership fully supports this important bipartisan and bicameral legislation and looks forward to partnering with you to advocate for the passage of this historic legislation in 2022.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Erika K. Hoffman
California School Boards Association
ehoffman@csba.org
(916) 217-3344



Diana Vu
Association of California School Administrators
dvu@acsa.org
(916) 329-3861