

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 a \$500 million increase for Title II, Part A** in the Labor/HHS/Education funding bill for fiscal 2021.
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. Increasing funding for Title II-A is particularly critical this year as this past spring has shown how important it is for teachers and leaders to have sufficient access to professional learning in order to use technology and convert in-class lessons to online instruction should another shut-down occur.
5. Teachers and leaders must have ongoing, job-embedded, school-based professional learning to meet their students' needs.
6. Our state received \$__ (INSERT STATE FUNDING NUMBER) in Title IIA funds last year.
 1. If you know what your district is using Title IIA dollars for say: My school district has used Title IIA funds to...
 2. 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, pedagogy and online instruction;
 - 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 a \$500 million increase in funding in fiscal 2021 for Title II-A of ESSA, the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program. These funds are absolutely critical to providing teachers and leaders with sufficient access to professional learning for using technology in remote learning and converting in-class lessons to online instruction should another shut-down occur. 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 support 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).”