

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: FY 2024 Appropriations Requests

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Baldwin and Ranking Members DeLauro and Capito:

We are writing on behalf of the [National Coalition on School Diversity \(NCSD\)](#), a coalition of more than 50 national civil rights organizations, university-based research centers, and state and local coalitions working to expand support for government policies that promote school diversity and reduce racial and economic isolation in K-12 schools.

Our organizations collectively represent the interests of millions of underserved students throughout the United States. We have seen how the diversity of this nation is our strength—one that our students should benefit from first-hand.

Research spanning decades shows that students of all backgrounds who attend racially and socioeconomically diverse schools have a greater adherence to democratic values and an enhanced propensity for civic engagement.¹ It is also clear that students in diverse school environments have stronger academic outcomes, reduced racial biases, greater self-confidence, and an increased likelihood of thriving in a diverse society.² They are also more likely to work in integrated environments and live in integrated neighborhoods upon completing their education, all of which strengthen the fabric of our diverse nation.³ All of these skills are more critical than ever given the tensions we are seeing in our society.

¹ Mickelson, R. A. *School integration and k–12 outcomes: An updated quick synthesis of the social science evidence*. National Coalition on School Diversity (2016), available at <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED571629>.

² The Century Foundation. *The Benefits of Socioeconomically and Racially Integrated Schools and Classrooms*. (2019), available at <https://tcf.org/content/facts/the-benefits-of-socioeconomically-and-racially-integrated-schools-and-classrooms/>

³ *Id.*

The research is undeniable: Diversity helps to make great schools for all students. The federal government should help more students have the opportunity to attend diverse, high-quality schools by supporting local, voluntary efforts with the resources and assistance they need to be successful.

The requests below are designed to build cross-racial understanding and facilitate a more equitable distribution of resources and power in our nation's public schools by providing a foundation to help states and districts provide integrated and inclusive learning environments. **As such, we ask that in FY 2024, Congress should:**

(1) Support the Fostering Diverse Schools Program by allocating \$100 million in FY 2024 so that states and school districts can pursue locally led strategies to voluntarily promote racial and socioeconomic integration. The President's FY 2024 budget requested this amount.

(2) Invest at least \$175 million in the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP). For decades, MSAP funding has not kept pace with inflation, even while segregation has increased in our public schools.

(3) Use the committee report that accompanies the FY 2024 budget to direct the Department of Education to use a portion of its Title IV, Part A administrative funds to provide capacity-building and implementation grants to states and school districts that are interested in voluntary efforts to foster school diversity.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to working with you on these recommendations that are vital to our children's and our nation's collective success.

Sincerely,



Gina Chirichigno
Director
National Coalition on School Diversity



Phillip Tegeler
Steering Committee Member
National Coalition on School Diversity