The proposed FY22 increases represent the single-largest funding increase through annual
appropriations process and would help reverse a more than 15-year-long trend of declining federal
share. The timing of these increases couldn’t be more critical: The chronic underfunding of IDEA by the
federal government places an additional burden on states, local school districts, and taxpayers to pay for
special education services. This compounds the existing pressure already placed on local budget dollars
to cover the federal shortfall and will further shortchange other school programs that are also beneficial
to students with disabilities.
We are at a unique point in the history of IDEA funding, with the President, Senate and House all having
adopted budget proposals that include a meaningful $2.5 billion increase in IDEA. These investments
are as critical as ever, as school districts work to ensure appropriate and equitable implementation of
IDEA. We support a prioritized and meaningful investment in IDEA, without negatively impacting funding
for other education programs, and oppose a year-long CR. We urge Congress to ensure a significant
increase for IDEA as you negotiate the final FY22 appropriations bill.
Sincerely,
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
The Advocacy Institute
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Music Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
The Arc of the United States
Autism Society of America
Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education
Council for Exceptional Children
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
Los Angeles Unified School District
Moms Of Black And Brown Children
National Association for Pupil Transportation
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
Pennsylvania School Boards Association