

July 25, 2023

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

To the President of the United States,

On behalf of 15 organizations, we write to encourage the Administration to begin planning now for the transition to a new Director of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). The six-year term for the current Director, Mark Schneider, will come to an end on March 24, 2024. We urge you to prioritize filling the upcoming vacancy as soon as possible to ensure that IES is not without a leader at the conclusion of Mark Schneider's term.

Prior to Director Schneider's appointment in 2018, the position was left vacant for nearly four years. The Director's role is critical in guiding federal research, evidence, evaluation, data collection, assessment, technical assistance and dissemination that is so important to continuing to improve teaching and learning for students across the country. IES plays an important role in supporting the Administration's calls to action to Raise the Bar and Engage Every Student.

In addition, the current federal research and development infrastructure is at the beginning stages of an expansion to include the implementation of new funding that would support innovative or unconventional research that discovers more effective approaches to education practice or policy, or transformative technologies that substantially improve learner outcomes. The new Director that this Administration will appoint should be nominated and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in a timely manner in order to have an efficient transition that ensures continued forward progress on the full spectrum of work under IES.

Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the great strides that the Administration has made in supporting IES, especially with the recent appointment of the National Board for Education Sciences. This is a positive step towards enhancing the stability and credibility of IES, and it is imperative that we continue to build on this momentum.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Learning Innovation

American Mathematical Society

American Educational Research Association
(AERA)

American Psychological Association

American Statistical Association

EDGE Consulting Partners

Educational Testing Service (ETS)

Federation of Associations in Behavioral and
Brain Sciences

Foundation for Child Development

InnovateEDU

Knowledge Alliance

Learning and Education Academic Research
Network (LEARN) Coalition

National Education Association

Society for Research in Child Development