

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Claus von Zastrow, 202 296-5220 x115

**Major Education Associations Reaffirm Importance of Stable and Reliable Title I Funding**

WASHINGTON –Today, the Learning First Alliance, a partnership of 17 national education associations representing over ten million parents, educators and policymakers, released the following statement:

“Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is a critical tool in the nation’s efforts to promote equity in education. It remains the only national mechanism for addressing the widespread state and local funding inequities that put low-income children at a severe disadvantage and call into question our nation’s commitment to equal opportunity.

While it does not fully fill these funding gaps, stable and reliable formula-driven Title I funds are a vital resource for school districts working to improve the lives of their most vulnerable students. Those funds are becoming all the more critical as states and districts face their worst budget shortfalls in decades. Competitive federal funds to support reform and innovation are critical, but they should always remain entirely separate from Title I funds.

The federal government should make an unyielding commitment to the fundamental goals of Title I. No district, school or student should ever have to worry about the reliability of Title I support.”

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The Learning First Alliance is a permanent partnership of 17 leading education associations with more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. Alliance members include: the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of School Administrators, American Association of School Personnel Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselor Association, Association of School Business Officials International, Council of Chief State School Officers, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Education Association, National Middle School Association, National School Public Relations Association, National Staff Development Council, National PTA, National School Boards Association and Phi Delta Kappa International. The Alliance maintains [www.publicschoolinsights.org](http://www.publicschoolinsights.org), a website that features what’s working in public schools and districts across the country.