

January 31, 2018

Dr. Thomas Brock  
Acting Director  
Institute of Education Sciences  
550 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Dr. Brock:

Our organizations work to ensure that all students have access to the high-capacity broadband services required for learning today. Many students, however, especially those living in rural and high-cost communities, lack access to the connectivity needed to complete assigned homework and make use of the increasing educational resources and tools available online. Given this challenge and important policy discussion underway nationally about how to close the “Homework Gap,” we write to inquire about the status of the Institute of Education Sciences’ (IES) efforts to produce a report on student home access to digital learning resources.

Our organizations were pleased that the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA, Sec.9210) directed IES to examine this critical education policy area. ESSA required that IES deliver the report to Congress by June 2017. The study, including the required examination of student habits related to digital learning outside the classroom and the barriers they face in accessing those resources, will help policy makers identify the best ways to ensure all students can connect with broadband services and be on a path for success after graduation. In light of the Federal Communications Commission’s pending Notice of Inquiry and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the future of the Lifeline program, we are especially eager to review the results of IES’s work and hope it will be sent to Congress, and publicly released, very soon.

Thank you for your leadership at IES. We look forward to hearing from you about the study and would be pleased to help you promote the paper in the field.

Sincerely,

AASA, The Schools Superintendents Association  
Alliance for Excellent Education  
American Federation of Teachers  
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents  
American Library Association  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
Consortium for School Networking  
International Society for Technology in Education  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Association of State Boards of Education  
National Education Association  
Association of Educational Service Agencies  
National PTA  
National School Boards Association  
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium  
National Rural Education Association  
Partnership for 21st Century Learning  
State Educational Technology Directors Association  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops