

PROGRAM GUIDE

Gala 2024

Wednesday
Sept. 18th
6pm-9pm

The National
Press Club

Washington, DC



Committee for
Education Funding





REAL SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS & COMMUNITIES

On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT, we are proud to support the **Committee for Education Funding** and its 2024 Gala honorees:

- **Rep. Katherine Clark**: The Patsy Takemoto Mink National Leader Award
- **Rep. Mike Levin** and **Sen. Susan Collins**: The William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award

We stand with you as champions of **great schools and colleges** that fulfill the promise of public education, **good jobs** that support a middle-class life, **affordable healthcare** for all, the **fight against discrimination and hate**, and the **defense of democracy**.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Fedrick C. Ingram
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Evelyn DeJesus
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



The American Council on Education is proud to be a sponsor of this year's Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Gala. As a founding member of CEF, we support increased investments in education that enable our current and future students to succeed.

We congratulate and thank the 2024 CEF Gala honorees:

Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)
Representative Mike Levin (D-CA)
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

Their commitment to federal investment in education is vital for ACE's advocacy efforts in championing and supporting affordability, access, student success, and innovation in higher education.



www.acenet.edu

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Gala 2024



Wednesday, September 18th, 6:00-9:00pm
The National Press Club , Washington, DC

~ Menu ~

FIRST COURSE

Caprese Salad

Fresh mozzarella and heirloom tomato Caprese salad, bibb lettuce and extra virgin olive oil

Locally made Artisan Rolls and Butter

ENTRÉE

Peruvian Roasted Chicken

Chimichurri sauce, purple potatoes, and yucca crisps

Vegan option (available upon request):

Acorn squash, quinoa, wild rice, cranberries and pecans, braised greens, cider reduction

DESSERT

Dark Chocolate Mousse “swag” bag

Coffee, Decaf, Hot Tea

CEF PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Emily Crawford

Director of Federal Advocacy
Vectis DC



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to the Committee for Education Funding's (CEF) Gala and congressional awards ceremony. This annual education community event is a gala season highlight, bringing together advocates, policymakers, and agency leaders to elevate the importance of federal education funding and to honor congressional champions who recognize the extraordinary value of investing in education for the future of our country.

Education has faced increased challenges in recent years, with this year being no different. While Congress has enacted significant budget constraints, the House is again choosing to propose historic cuts to non-defense discretionary spending. As you are well aware, the result is a fiscal year 2025 Labor-HHS-Education bill that cuts funding for Department of Education programs to below their fiscal year 2011 level. The bill reduces spending on Education by 14% or \$11.1 billion, eliminates key programs, and rescinds funding that schools are counting on for the academic year that only just kicked off. The Senate Appropriations bill provides a 1.1% increase for education programs for the coming year but proposes freezing funding for many programs. It is with this context that we honor and recognize three Members of Congress who have demonstrated their strong commitment to increasing the federal investment in education for the success of our nation's students. CEF is awarding its Patsy Takemoto Mink National Leader Award to Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA). Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Representative Mike Levin (D-CA) will each receive the William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award.

We are exceptionally grateful to the volunteers on the Gala Committee, our relentless CEF membership, and ACG Advocacy staff who worked tirelessly to make this event a success. Thank you to all the sponsors who contributed to this keystone education advocacy event. Education communities and programs nationwide would disappear without your support.

Enjoy this evening with our wonderful community of friends and supporters, but remember the ultimate purpose that brings us together, increasing the federal investment in education.

Emily Crawford
CEF President

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Gala 2024



Wednesday, September 18th, 6:00-9:00pm
The National Press Club , Washington, DC

~ Tonight's Program ~

RECEPTION - 6:00PM-7:30PM

BANQUET - 7:30PM-9:00PM

WELCOME

Sarah Abernathy, Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding

DINNER

REMARKS

Emily Crawford, CEF President

AWARD PRESENTATION TO CEF HONOREES

Representative Katherine Clark (MA)

Senator Susan Collins (ME)

Representative Mike Levin (CA)

KEYNOTE

John Arthur, 2021 Utah Teacher of the Year

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Gala2024

STAR STUDENT SPONSORS



A Union of Professionals



ABOUT CEF

The [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) is the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, a non-partisan, non-profit organization whose core mission is to increase federal funding for all education programs to ensure our students' success. CEF has 119 members representing the continuum of education — early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, adult and workforce education, and out-of-school educational services such as libraries, museums, research, and afterschool programs. Members include students and families, teachers and faculty, administrators, specialized instructional support personnel and other school employees, school board members, librarians, businesses, and education-related organizations.



Education needs continue to grow but last year federal support for education funding declined due to tight spending constraints. Congress has yet to pass legislation funding education programs for next year, but the bill pending in the House slashes funding for Education Department programs by \$11.1 billion (14%), while the bill pending in the Senate provides a modest \$901 million (1%) increase that freezes funding for most programs for the second year in a row.

CEF continues to make the case to Congress and the Administration that federal support for education is among the best investments the government can make. CEF meets with congressional offices, writes [letters](#), publishes our annual [education budget book](#), convenes [briefings](#), and shares information on education funding. This summer we held a successful [#CEFHillDay](#), with CEF members fanning out in person and in virtual meetings with 45 congressional offices. CEF is exploring new approaches to reach more people and make it easier for them to tell leaders why education funding matters, including a “Don’t Leave Students Out in the Cold” [paid media advocacy campaign](#) early this year, a #HearOurEdStories [social media toolkit](#) and campaign that included [two members of Congress](#) this summer, and sharing information on LinkedIn, among others activities. In the last year, CEF held briefings for congressional staff and the education community on the [president’s 2025 education budget](#), the [outlook for education funding as COVID-relief ends and spending caps take effect](#), [Internet connectivity issues](#), and a Capitol Hill showcase of CEF member material on how federal COVID-relief funds supported teaching and learning.

How you can be involved.

Join CEF and our members in supporting increased investments in education! CEF’s website (www.cef.org) has information on congressional funding action and how to share your views with Congress. Please follow our advocacy and informational resources at @edfunding on [X](#) and on [Instagram](#), and at Cmte4edfunding on [Facebook](#).

CEF GALA 2024 AWARDS

The Patsy Takemoto Mink National Leader Award

For outstanding advocacy in support of education funding as a federal priority.

The Honorable Katherine Clark Representative from Massachusetts



From her time on the Melrose School Committee through today as Democratic Whip in the House of Representatives, Katherine Clark has been a national leader in support of children, families, students, educators, schools, and colleges and universities. In more than a decade in the U.S. House, Rep. Clark has elevated issues from childcare and family leave to pandemic-relief to institutions, repeatedly championing needs along the education continuum and the wraparound services that enable success in education.

Rep. Clark is both a determined advocate and a skillful legislator leading efforts to increase funding and attention to education. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Clark secured increases for Head Start, Pell Grants, Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS), and other programs that drive access and improve educational outcomes. In 2017, she helped introduce the [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act](#) to reauthorize and reform CTE programs. In 2021, she helped introduce the [Educational Equity Challenge Grant Act](#) to provide \$100 billion to respond to the COVID-19

“As we aim to rebuild a stronger and more equitable economy, we have to dramatically increase our support for child care, early education, nutrition services, and the early education workforce.”

pandemic and its consequences on education. As the highest-ranking woman in House leadership, Rep. Clark gives national attention to issues including funding universal pre-K education, youth mental health, and trauma-informed education. Rep. Clark has also been named a Champion of Science by the Science Coalition for her leadership advancing scientific research and its support for students, researchers, and STEM education at all levels.

Before her election to the House in 2013, Rep. Clark served in the Massachusetts House and Senate. She previously worked as general counsel for the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services and as policy chief for the Massachusetts Attorney General.

Rep. Clark graduated from Saint Lawrence University and earned a J.D. from Cornell University and a Master's of Public Affairs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink was the first woman of color elected to Congress, where she represented Hawaii's second District from 1965-1977 and again from 1990 until her death in 2002. Working on the House Committee on Education and Labor, she sponsored landmark legislation to expand access to education and women's rights. A co-author of Title IX that protects against discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities, she also championed access to education and child care, women's rights, and civil rights.

CEF GALA 2024 AWARDS

William H. Natcher Service Award

For distinguished service in elevating education as a priority to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens.



The Honorable Susan Collins Senator from Maine

Senator Susan Collins is a long-time advocate for education funding, with a special focus on the importance of increasing the affordability and accessibility of higher education for students in rural communities. Senator Collins was the founding Senate Co-Chair of the Congressional TRIO Caucus and has consistently supported higher funding for the Federal TRIO Programs. She also continues to advocate for the Federal Pell Grant Program, introducing legislation as early as 2005 to increase the maximum Pell Grant, in 2015 championing the return of Year-Round Pell Grants, and continuing to push for increases.

This year, Senator Collins was the co-chair of Public Schools Week, introducing and passing a bipartisan [resolution](#) highlighting the importance of federal education funding, those in the education workforce, and the role of public schools. In this Congress, she introduced the [Success for Rural Schools and Communities Act](#) to help rural students achieve their higher education goals and connect them with employment opportunities in their hometowns.

Importantly, as vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee in this Congress, she has helped push for a higher total of non-defense discretionary funding. That funding has allowed the Senate Committee to produce education funding bills that provide billions more for education than in the counterpart bills in the House, and to reject the devastating funding cuts proposed for fiscal year 2024.

Senator Collins was elected in 1996 and is now the most senior Republican woman in the Senate. She graduated from Saint Lawrence University and has spent almost her entire career in public service.

“I have visited 119 schools in Maine, and these visits are among the most rewarding experiences in my career in public service.”

Representative William H. Natcher, representing Kentucky's second District from 1953-1994, chaired the House Committee on Appropriations and its Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. One of the nation's most committed advocates for children and education, Rep. Natcher stated, “When you take care of the health of your people and educate your children, you continue to live in the strongest country in the world..”

CEF GALA 2024 AWARDS



William H. Natcher Service Award

For distinguished service in elevating education as a priority to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens.

The Honorable Mike Levin Representative from California

In the 118th Congress, Representative Mike Levin has continued his commitment to increasing education funding through legislation and several caucuses that help ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens. This Congress he introduced the bipartisan [Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act](#) to support public K-12 schools on federal lands such as on military installations or Indian treaty lands that are tax-exempt. The bill would provide funding to replace revenue that would otherwise come through taxes, helping to ensure that all schools, including those serving military-connected students and Native American children, have the resources they need to provide a high-quality education. Rep. Levin has cosponsored other education funding bills, including the [IDEA Full Funding Act](#) that would ensure the federal government meets its commitment to funding special education, and the [Student Loan Interest Elimination Act](#) to make college more affordable by lowering student debt.

In previous Congresses, Rep. Levin introduced bills to support funding for other parts of the education continuum. As a member of the Veterans Education Caucus, his efforts contribute to the successful transition from military service to civilian life. To that end, he introduced the [Veteran Service Equity Act](#) to expand the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to those who work at Veteran Service Organizations. He introduced bills to improve outcomes for college students, such the [Higher Education Standards Improvement Act](#) to provide stronger protections for students if their college closes, and the [Student Loan Contract Act](#) to ensure that students understand the commitment they are making when they take out loans.

Rep. Levin has represented California's 49th District since 2019. He earned his bachelor's degree from Stanford University, and then attended Duke University of Law. Prior to serving in Congress, he co-founded Sustain OC, which helped expedite the transition toward more sustainable power generation and transportation alternatives.

Representative William H. Natcher, representing Kentucky's second District from 1953-1994, chaired the House Committee on Appropriations and its Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. One of the nation's most committed advocates for children and education, Rep. Natcher stated, "When you take care of the health of your people and educate your children, you continue to live in the strongest country in the world."

“The student debt crisis is placing a massive burden on low-income and middle-class families, and I strongly support action to lower the cost of higher education, expand Pell Grants, and provide debt relief for those who need it most.”

GALA 2024 KEYNOTE

TONIGHT'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER

John Arthur

2021 Utah Teacher of the Year



John Arthur is the 2021 Utah Teacher of the Year and National Teacher of the Year Finalist.

He is a sixth grade teacher at Meadowlark Elementary, a Title I school in Salt Lake City, Utah. His students have gained national recognition as advocates for children and immigrants through the videos they create and share on their YouTube channel, 9thEvermore. He encourages his students to take the lead, coaching them as they craft their content and discover the power of their own voices. He found his passion for empowering youth while substitute teaching in Title I classrooms. Now, in his twelfth year at Meadowlark, he is a National Board-Certified Teacher (NBCT), an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Education at Westminster College, the Director of Candidate Recruitment for the Utah National Board Coalition, and the Co-Director of the Teacher Fellows, a nonprofit dedicated to developing the next generation of Utah teacher leaders.

He embodies a joyful commitment to fostering excellent learning environments and championing the needs of every student. His love of teaching is infectious, but he is also an advocate for making the teaching profession one that is rewarding, with better compensation, greater respect, a sense of community support, and room to grow.

This summer, he [testified](#) at a Senate HELP Committee hearing on “The Immediate and Long-Term Challenges Facing Public School Teachers: Low Pay, Teacher Shortages, and Underfunded Public Schools.” He has two master’s degrees in teaching from Westminster College and is now pursuing his Doctor of Education degree in Policy and Leadership.

“Children are the best people, teaching is the best job, and there’s no better way to spend a day than in a classroom with kids!”

State Teacher of the Year is an educator who is recognized for their exceptional teaching and ability to connect with students, collaborate with colleagues, and make a difference in their community. State teachers of the year are selected by their state association and are part of the National Teacher of the Year awards program.

2024 Gala Committee

Co-Chairs

Kuna Tavalin

Council for Exceptional Children/Stride Policy Solutions

Zach Curtis

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

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Emily Crawford

Vectis DC

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Frank Ballmann

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Jenny Smulson

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

NOTE: 2024 Board Members continued on next page

2024 CEF Board Members, continued

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David Griffith

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Becky Levin

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Senior Advisor

Sheryl Cohen

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Jamie Panarites

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For more information about CEF's [members](#), [advocacy](#) efforts, research on the importance and impact of education investments, and [charts and data](#) on current federal funding, please visit [CEF's website](#) or follow CEF at @edfunding on [X](#) and on [Instagram](#), and at Cmte4edfunding on [Facebook](#) or on [LinkedIn](#).

Investing in the Future

BEGINS WITH

Urge Congress to increase education funding. There's no better investment than **EDUCATION.**



GET INVOLVED AT
CEF.ORG/ADVOCACY

 @EdFunding

Stride Policy Solutions Congratulates Tonight's CEF Honorees



Developing creative solutions that strengthen the education and well-being of children, adults, and families.

1 in 4 public school students are Latino.

Investing in their education is vital to ensuring all students can learn, grow and thrive.

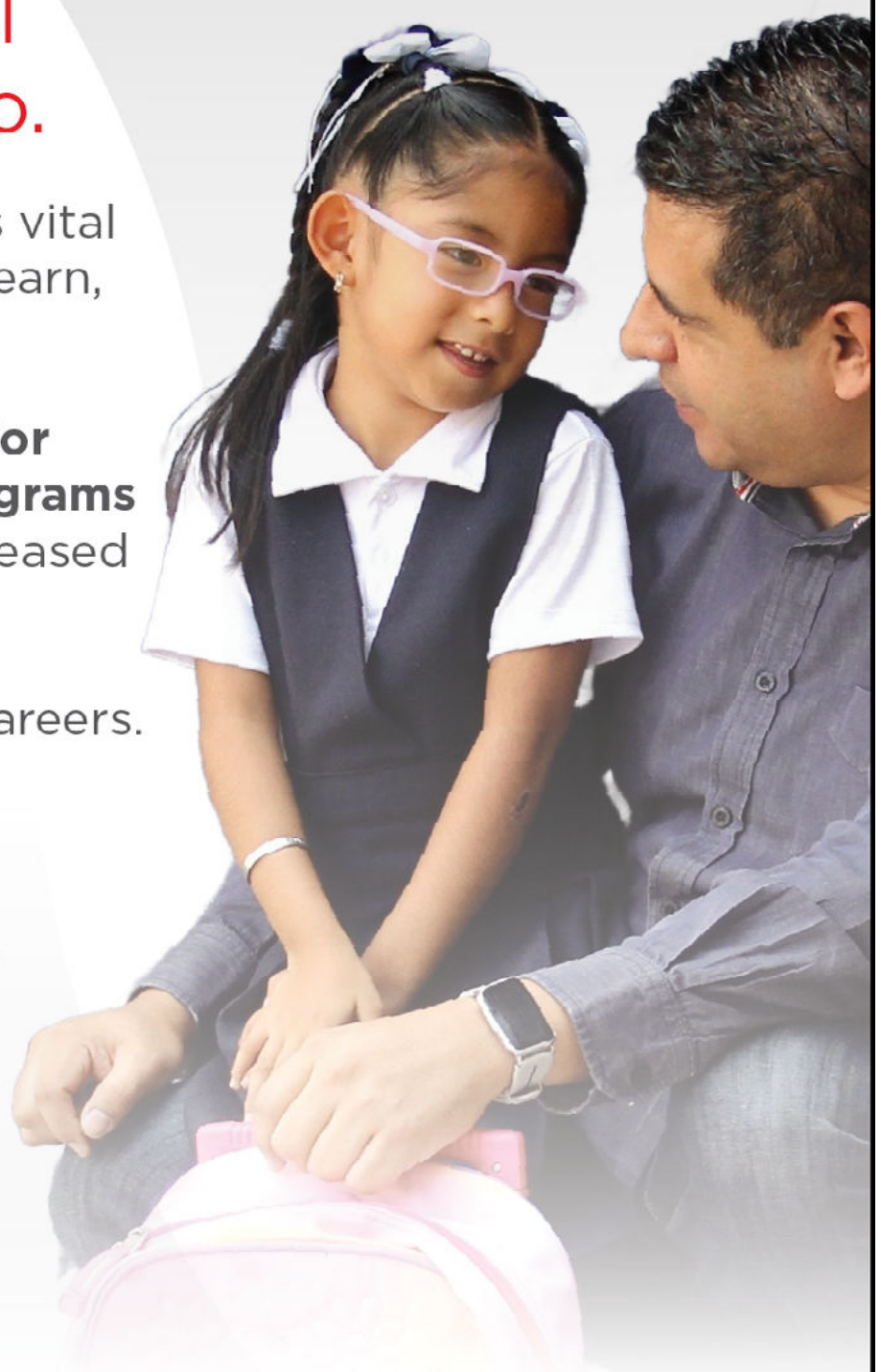
We close opportunity gaps for Latino students through programs and policies that lead to increased achievement rates, equitable postsecondary access and completion, and successful careers.

Scan to learn more >



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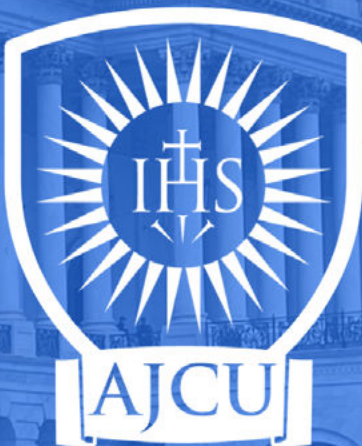
The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities congratulates and thanks the 2024 CEF Award Winners:

Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)
Patsy Takemoto Mink National Leader Award

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
William H. Natcher Award

Representative Mike Levin (D-CA)
William H. Natcher Award

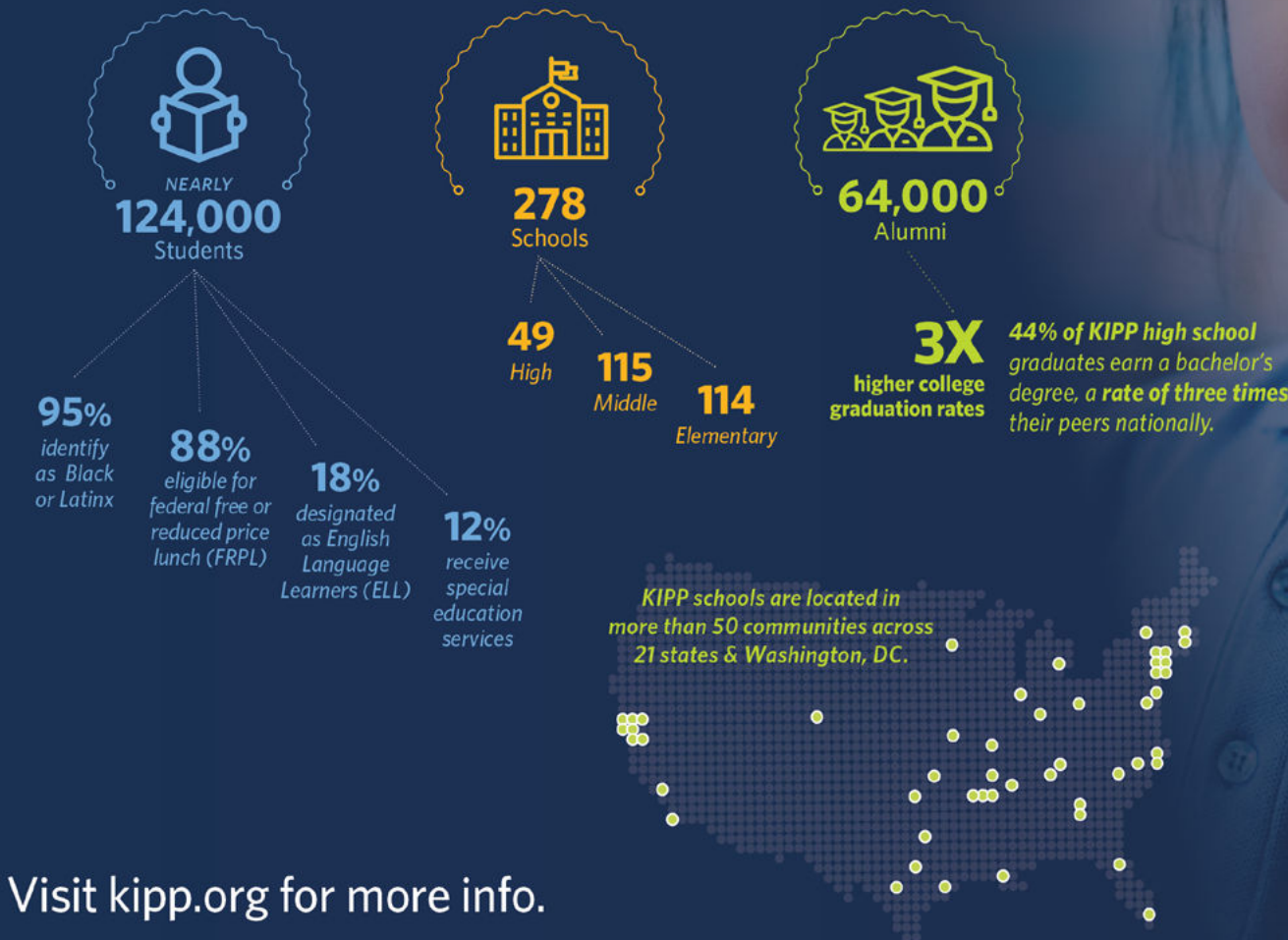
We are grateful for their support of federal education funding.



KIPP:Public Schools

TOGETHER, A FUTURE WITHOUT LIMITS

KIPP Public Schools is a national network of public charter schools that prepares students with the skills and confidence to create the future they want for themselves, their communities, and us all.



Visit kipp.org for more info.



CONGRATULATIONS

to all of tonight's honorees, and thank you
for your support of federal education funding.

www.bosepublicaffairs.com

VECTIS^{DC}

From LA to DC —

We extend our congratulations to this year's honorees.

We thank Emily Crawford for her leadership and
express our gratitude to CEF for their exceptional work.

Vectis DC

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EVERYONE DESERVES REAL OPPORTUNITY

Unfortunately, opportunity isn't equal.

At Lumina Foundation, we're committed to
removing the barriers that keep today's Black,
Hispanic, Latino, and Native American students
from the education and lives they seek.

Learn more about Lumina's commitment to equity:
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The Council for Exceptional Children
Congratulations CEF Honorees

- **Rep. Katherine Clark (MA)**
- **Sen. Susan Collins (ME)**
- **Rep. Mike Levin (CA)**



The Council for Exceptional Children is the world's largest association of education professionals who are committed to supporting a high-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities.

www.exceptionalchildren.org



Congratulations

Representative Katherine Clark (D-MA)
2024 Patsy Takemoto Mink National Leader Award

Representative Mike Levin (D-CA) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)
2024 William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award

Your commitment and support of public education funding helps our students receive resources needed for success. Thank you for your dedication!

Council of Administrators of Special Education
www.casecec.org

Congratulations to
Representative Katherine Clark,
Representative Mike Levin,
& Senator Susan Collins

On behalf of the 568,000 students served by GEAR UP, thank you for your outstanding contributions to advancing college access, readiness, and success.



National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

1964
2024 | CELEBRATING
60 YEARS OF TRIO

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) proudly congratulates Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senate TRIO Caucus Co-Chair, on her esteemed recognition as the William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award recipient at the Committee for Education Funding Gala.

Senator Collins has long been a champion for educational equity and access, advocating tirelessly for the TRIO programs and the countless students they support.



TITLE IV-A COALITION

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Advocating for full funding and the successful implementation of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program under Title IV-A of ESSA

Congratulations to the
2024 CEF Awardees

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO EDUCATION



Allied For Progress is a women-owned government relations consulting firm that helps mission driven organizations achieve their policy goals.

AFP supports all of our clients' government relations needs, including policy and legal analysis, coalition building and management, and direct lobbying.

Aplifying Voices of Impact

Empowering Changemakers

Collaborating for Good

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TO ALL AWARD RECIPIENTS

info@alliedforprogress.com

Advancing High-Quality SEL Implementation

Our membership comprises organizations dedicated to the development, marketing, and distribution of SEL programs, curricula, professional development, technical assistance, and/or assessments across early childhood, elementary, secondary, and higher education

*Congratulations to
all the exceptional
award recipients!*

 selproviders.org

 info@selproviders.org

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU

to Senator Collins, Representative
Clark, and Representative Levin for
your continued leadership on
education funding.



Congratulations 2024 CEF Honorees!

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME)

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LEVIN (D-CA)

REPRESENTATIVE KATHERINE CLARK (D-MA)

Join NASSP, NAESP, and AFSA in
recognizing outstanding school leaders
during **National Principals Month** this
October.



CONGRATULATIONS

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Congrats to this year's honorees!

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- ☎ (202) 624-5455
- 📍 400 N. CAPITOL STREET, NW
SUITE 290
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Congratulations

To the 2024 award recipients Senator Susan Collins,
Representative Katherine Clark and Representative Mike Levin.
Thank you for your unwavering support of federal education funding.

The American Library Association congratulates

Rep. Katherine
Clark (MA-5)

Senator Susan
Collins (ME)

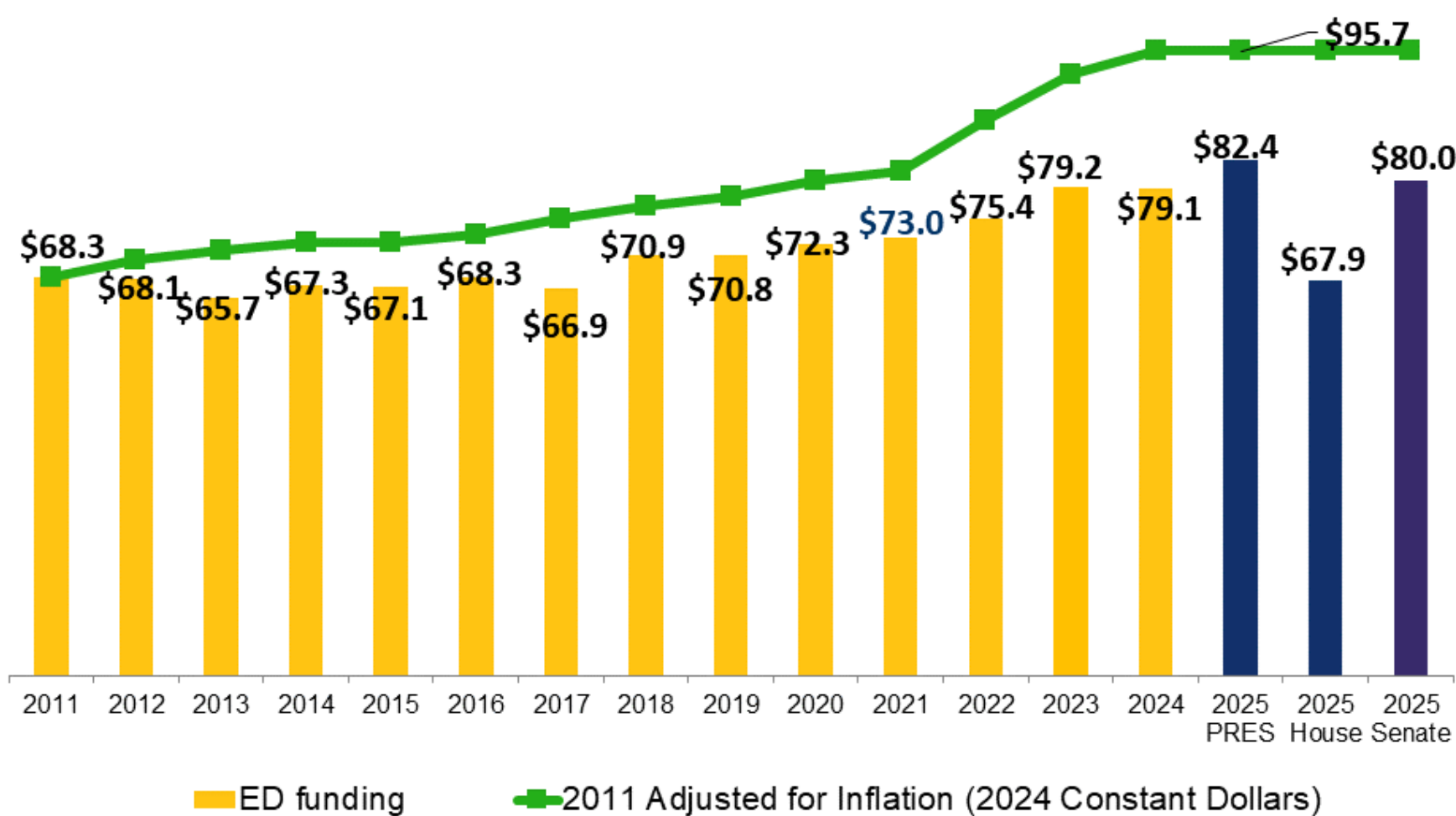
Rep. Mike
Levin (CA-49)

Thank you for all your work to support library workers & patrons,
students & educators, and the entire education ecosystem!



Education Funding has Failed to Keep Pace with Needs or Inflation

(Department of Education Discretionary Funding in Billions of Dollars)



2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, & 2023 totals reflect rescissions of previously appropriated ED funding



THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONGRATULATES THE HONOREES:
REPRESENTATIVE KATHERINE CLARK (D-MA),
the recipient of the Patsy Tomenko Mink National Leader Award,
SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) and REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LEVIN (D-CA),
the recipients of the William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award.



*NAICU and the nation’s independent colleges
and universities salute three champions of
American education:*



Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)



Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA)



Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)



NAICU

National Association of Independent
Colleges and Universities
www.naicu.edu



COMMITTEE FOR
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