

Matthew Soldner  
Commissioner, National Center for Education Evaluation  
Institute of Education Sciences  
U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, DC 20202-7240

RE: Docket ID ED-2021-IES-0118

Dear Dr. Soldner,

On behalf the Alliance for Learning Innovation (ALI), we are responding to the *Request for Information on the Department of Education's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2026 Learning Agenda* (Docket ID ED-2021-IES-0118). The Alliance for Learning Innovation (ALI) is a coalition of leading philanthropic organizations, thought leaders, and stakeholders that advocates for federal investments in research-based innovations in education that advance student equity, empower practitioners, improve talent pathways, and expand the opportunity needed in a globally competitive world.

The COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of traditional learning and exacerbation of existing educational inequities, the arrival of the Future of Work, and the need to strengthen America's competitiveness in the world, have placed a spotlight on the need for innovative educational practices that can immediately impact student achievement and are accessible to practitioners. The scope of this challenge requires a substantially greater federal investment in education research and development (R&D) and innovation at a scale that will impact learning outcomes for all students, but particularly for those furthest away from opportunity. Even prior to the pandemic, the United States under invested in applied education innovations as compared to other sectors.

ALI supports the six areas proposed for the FY 2022-2026 Learning Agenda. To support those areas, ALI calls for an increased investment in education R&D. We strongly support greater interagency coordination to ensure education discoveries and investments at other agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), are leveraged to their maximum potential for learners. We also encourage support for significantly improving large-scale multidisciplinary research and development activities to ensure the more effective adoption and scaling up of education innovations, as well as increased investments in education technology that are evidence informed.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Department's FY 2022-2026 Learning Agenda and are happy to answer any questions. The Alliance for Learning Innovation participants look forward to working with the Department on this crucial endeavor.

Sincerely,

The Alliance for Learning Innovation (ALI)