

## **Backgrounder: Javits Appropriations Request**

### **ESSA Background:**

- The Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program was reauthorized in ESSA with a greater focus on historically underrepresented students.
- For the first time in Federal K-12 law:
  - Students who are gifted and talented are included in Title I; and
  - There are specific supports for teacher training in Title II.

### **Appropriations/Budget Context:**

- Javits is the only dedicated source of Federal support for gifted and talented children.
- Javits is currently funded at \$13 million.
- \$32 million for Javits is needed (based on the average grant award in 2015), for each state, potentially, to receive one grant focused on Title I and one grant focused on Title II.
- The increase will strengthen the impact of changes in Title I and II to support gifted and talented children and the Javits program in ESSA.
- Even in lean budget times, Congress increased education funding by \$2.6 billion in Federal Fiscal Year 2018, \$581 million for Federal Fiscal Year 2019, and \$1.3 billion in Federal Fiscal Year 2020.
- In the context of a \$4 trillion budget, \$32 million is a small amount to support the millions of gifted and talented children who need support.

Research from the National Center for Research on Gifted Education shows that gifted children in poverty and minority groups that demonstrate comparable levels of achievement and aptitude as their peers are 250% less likely to be identified for, and in, gifted and talented programs. Therefore, it is critically important that research continues on how best to identify and serve these underrepresented students and widely disseminate strategies known to be successful with these and all gifted student populations.

\$32 million for Javits would allow for a more robust framework of scalable supports for all gifted children to change this dire statistic.

It is imperative that this program is funded at least \$32 million to support the work of states, districts, and schools to help gifted and talented children, especially the most vulnerable, as they reach for their personal best.