New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act

Introduced by: Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

The Problem: Limited Opportunities to Develop Effective Interventions for Learning Recovery

Opportunity gaps between different groups of students have contributed to wide, stubborn gulfs in academic achievement. Direct investments in K-12 and higher education must be complemented by an expansive research and development apparatus tasked with identifying and recommending practices designed to accelerate student learning and drive significant return on those investments. The development and dissemination of equitable, effective, and evidence-based practices that support improvements in students' academic performance and a well-rounded education requires a nimble approach supported by the federal government and involving stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

The Solution: Flexible and Meaningful Investments to Advance Innovative Practices in Education

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) currently includes four national centers, each of which serves an important purpose in research and data collection to support students, educators, and administrators. *The NEED Act* will create a fifth center, the National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE), dedicated specifically to developing and disseminating innovative, cutting-edge practices and tools, such as voice recognition software to assess emerging readiness gaps and dyslexia, and digital learning platforms to help accelerate learning recovery. These innovations would enable schools and colleges to make dramatic advances in teaching and learning.

The *NEED Act* would provide NCADE with the flexibility and nimbleness necessary to advance informed-risk, high-reward research projects through a model similar to that of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E), and Advanced Research Projects Agency – Health (ARPA-H).

The NCADE authorized by the *NEED Act* would dramatically expand education R&D in an efficient and responsible manner by:
- Investing an additional $500 million to establish, staff, and operate NCADE, including by hiring program managers to support the development, completion, and dissemination of projects funded by NCADE;
- Requiring the Advanced Development Commissioner to appoint an advisory panel to guide the development and implementation of NCADE projects; and
- Conducting and disseminating the results of periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of NCADE in achieving its mission of expanding education R&D and improving teaching and learning.

The *NEED Act* would also improve Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) and help states better track students' progress through K-12 and into the workforce by:
- Providing $500 million to modernize data systems and integrate data across multiple systems and agencies, including education, workforce, nutrition, and other social programs;
- Supporting the linkage of data across states while protecting the privacy of students' education records; and
- Promoting and generating accurate data that will help policymakers understand and address opportunity and achievement gaps, workforce needs, and access to critical social services.