



New Essential Education Discoveries (NEED) Act of 2026

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The U.S. is losing ground as a technologically competitive nation. Our education system is not adequately preparing students to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy, which poses a threat to our national security and economic stability. To drive evidence-based improvements and innovations in our schools, we must make strategic investments in education research and development (R&D).

Currently, the Institute of Education Sciences includes four national centers, each of which serves an important purpose in research and data collection to support students and educators. The NEED Act will create a fifth center, the National Center for Advanced Development in Education (NCADE), dedicated specifically to advance high-risk, high-reward transformational education research.

Specifically, the NEED Act would:

- Make robust investments to establish, staff, and operate NCADE;
- Require Commissioner to appoint an advisory panel to guide the development and implementation of NCADE projects; and
- Conduct and disseminate the results of periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of NCADE in achieving its mission of expanding education R&D and improving teaching and Learning.

Inspired by other federal agencies' advanced research project centers like the Defence Advanced Research Project Agency for the U.S. Department of Defense, NCADE would have the capacity to support transformational R&D in education. It will give promising, cutting-edge education innovations a chance to be tested, refined, and scaled so that students across the country can benefit from them.

The NEED Act will also make critical, long overdue improvements to the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems program, helping states make better use of data to support evidence-based interventions will:

- Modernize data systems and integrate data across multiple systems and agencies, including education, workforce, nutrition, and other social programs;
- Support the linkage of data across states while protecting the privacy of students' education records; and
- Promote and generate accurate data in usable, actionable formats that will help policymakers understand and address opportunity and achievement gaps.