



***National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.***

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November 9, 2009

The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202

**Re: Investing in Innovation – Notice of Proposed Priorities, Requirements,  
Definitions and Selection Criteria  
Docket ID ED-2009-OII-0012**

Dear Secretary Duncan:

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), the national association that represents the state directors of special education in the states, the federal territories, the Bureau of Indian Education, the Department of Defense Education Agency and the Freely Associated States, appreciates this opportunity to submit written comments on the Notice of Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria under the Investing in Innovation Fund.

We applaud your efforts and commitment to promote innovation in local school districts and to recognize the role that nonprofit associations can have in helping them with these efforts. Furthermore, we strongly applaud your commitment to helping expand efforts to improve outcomes for student with disabilities by including a proposed competitive preference priority that focuses on this subset of students.

NASDSE is a member of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Task Force, which under separate cover has submitted comments urging you to add language to the priorities making them consistent with the principles of UDL. NASDSE supports these recommendations.

Finally, we note the importance of including **all** stakeholders, including administrators, teachers, parents and students in advisory committees for funded projects and encourage you to add language requiring this to the final requirements.

Again, NASDSE thanks you for this opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me at [bill.east@nasdse.org](mailto:bill.east@nasdse.org) or NASDSE's deputy executive director, Nancy Reder at [nancy.reder@nasdse.org](mailto:nancy.reder@nasdse.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D.  
Executive Director