

# nassgap

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**national association of state student grant and aid programs**

October 4, 2004

Mr. Josh B. Bolten  
Director  
U.S. Office of Management and Budget  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Mr. Bolten:

I am President of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP). Our member states provide college students with \$7 billion in student aid each year.

The states work in partnership with the federal government in student aid through several programs, including the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership (LEAP) program. The LEAP program helps states make need-based grants available to students with exceptional financial need. As you can see from the enclosed Fact Sheet, LEAP is working very well to meet its objectives by:

1. targeting grant aid to the neediest students;
2. leveraging higher levels of non-federal matching funds than any other HEA Title IV student aid programs;
3. integrating the application process within the FAFSA process; and
4. providing all funds to students with no administrative allowances.

We are providing you with the LEAP Fact Sheet to assist the Department and OMB in the Performance Assessment Rating Tool (PART) assessment that we understand is being undertaken for the LEAP program. We also offer our assistance in the review and discussion of the PART assessment as it proceeds.

We are confident that the PART assessment of LEAP will conclude that it is a successful program, which can do even more when adequately funded. LEAP continues to pursue its on-going legislative mission of assisting states in providing grants to needy students. In that regard, we encourage the Administration to include funding growth for LEAP within the President's FY 2006 budget proposals. We estimate that, because of the \$2 in state funds provided for every \$1 in federal funding, an increase of just \$34 million (to \$100 million) for LEAP will provide a total of \$270 million to financially needy college students nationwide.

Please have your staff contact me for further details. We look forward to working with ED and OMB on this important assessment.

Sincerely,

Theresa Antworth  
President

CC: Rod Paige, U.S. Department of Education

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