

IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2020 BUDGET ON K-12 EDUCATION

APRIL 2019



On March 11, President Trump released his Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) budget request outlining his spending priorities for the coming year. The president's \$4.7 trillion budget proposal echoes the administration's message of reigning in government spending, as it seeks massive cuts across the board. One area that would experience particularly severe cuts under the proposal is K-12 education, which is largely represented by the President's budget proposal for the Department of Education. Many of these cuts, if enacted, would harm the ability of America's children to receive a high-quality education.

OVERVIEW

The President's budget requests \$64 billion for the Department of Education for FY 2020, a \$7.1 billion, or 10 percent, reduction from Fiscal Year 2019. These cuts would include the elimination of 29 programs, many of which benefit children and families. Under the proposal, the financial role of the federal government in K-12 education would be severely diminished, which would cause states to shoulder more of the cost for low income, special needs, and ESOL students.

In contrast to proposed cuts, the administration does seek to invest in its priorities of so-called "school choice" as well as school safety through increased funding for charter schools and school safety programs. Along these lines, the President's Budget includes one of its major education policy proposals in the Department of Treasury budget request in the form of a tax credit for "school choice." This "Education Freedom Scholarships" program would be a federal credit totaling up to \$50 billion over 10 years for donations to scholarship programs for families of elementary and secondary students who are seeking state-defined public or private education options. This initiative would most likely shift even more dollars away from public schools.

The President's proposals for severe cuts and program eliminations across the Department of Education vastly outweigh the modest suggested increases. One major request that would have a negative impact on K-12 education is the elimination of 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which are a critical source of funding for many local afterschool programs and serve about 1.4 million students at over 9,500 locations. Another harmful request is eliminating the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program that provides grants to state and local education agencies to increase student achievement through teacher development and class-size reduction. These grants are important because teacher quality is one of the most significant factors in promoting student learning. The administration also seeks the elimination of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program. This federal money empowers school districts to make investments in schools with the greatest need through meaningful and strategic decisions.

The President's budget also neglects education for low-income, minority, and disabled students. Cuts to or the elimination of Indian and Native Hawaiian Education programs, American Printing House for the Blind and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and TRIO programs and Impact Aid will have adverse effects on our Nation's neediest students. Overall, this cut of over \$7 billion in the name of fiscal responsibility, flexibility to states, and school choice would ultimately undermine the education of America's children and, by extension, the future of our nation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some of the major funding increases, cuts, and eliminations in K-12 education from the President's FY 2020 Budget:

Proposed New Programs:

- » **Education Freedom Scholarships:** Federal tax credit of up to \$50 billion over 10 years - \$5 billion per year - for donations to scholarship programs for families of elementary and secondary students who are seeking state-defined public or private education options.
- » Student-Centered Funding Incentive Grants: Provides \$50 million for activities related to refining and implementing student-centered funding systems for local education agencies.

Proposed Funding Increases: The President's budget includes roughly \$440 million in funding increases across a small number of K-12 programs within the Department of Education, including:

- » Charter Schools Program: Increased \$60 million to \$500 million
- » Education and Innovation Research Program: Increased \$170 million to \$300 million
- » School Safety National Activities: Increased \$105 million to \$200 million
- » Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants: Increased \$88 million to \$3.610 billion
- » Career and Technical Education State Grants: Increased \$12.6 million to \$1.2826 billion

Programs Cut: The President's budget would reduce funding for several existing K-12 education programs by around \$275 million, including:

- » Indian Education: Cut \$4 million to \$176.2 million
- » Impact Aid: Cut \$74.3 million to \$1.3718 billion
- » National Technical Institute for the Deaf: Cut \$7.5 million to \$70 million
- » Gallaudet University: Cut \$13.1 million to \$121.3 million
- » Federal TRIO Programs: Cut \$110 million to \$950 million
- » Child Care Access Means Parents in School: Cut \$34.9 million to \$15.1 million
- » Research in Special Education: Cut by \$2 million to \$54 million

Programs Eliminated: The President's budget also seeks to eliminate 26 K-12 programs worth a total of about \$6.6 billion, including:

- » 21st Century Community Learning Centers: Eliminated; cut \$1.2217 billion
- » Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants: Eliminated; cut \$1.170 billion

- » Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants: Eliminated; cut \$2.0558 billion
- » Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants: Eliminated; cut \$840 million
- » GEAR UP: Eliminated; cut \$360 million
- » Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants: Eliminated; cut \$190 million
- » Native Hawaiian Education: Eliminated; cut \$36.4 million
- » Alaska Native Education: Eliminated; cut \$35.5 million
- » Promise Neighborhoods: Eliminated; cut \$78.3 million
- » Supporting Effective Educator Development: Eliminated; cut \$75 million

CONTACT

For more information, reach out to Drew Aherne, Assistant Director, Public Policy, at drewa@firstfocus.org.