

# Protect Public Education: Oppose Trump/DeVos Budget Cuts



.....

**NEA believes in a strong and inclusive public education system that ensures that all students can succeed regardless of their ZIP code.**

- ▶ **The Trump/DeVos FY2018 budget proposal slashes education funding by \$9 billion**
  - This rollback would set education funding (excluding Federal Pell Grants) to pre-2002 levels in current dollars. Public preK-12 and postsecondary enrollment have increased by 8.6 million students since 2001.
  - Their proposal would undermine public education by diverting **\$1.4 billion for private school vouchers and similar schemes.**
  - Their proposal also recklessly breaks the years-long bipartisan precedent that has treated Defense and Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) funding equally, by calling for a massive increase for Defense at the expense of NDD.
  
- ▶ **Meanwhile, the House FY18 Labor, Health & Human Services and Education funding bill cuts education by \$2.4 billion (3.5% below the 2017 level).**
  - The House education funding bill:
    - **Eliminates Title II-A entirely at \$2.1 billion** which would mean 8,500 educators would lose their jobs and class sizes would increase.
    - **Slashes 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers funding** that provide important afterschool services to students most in need; and,
    - **Rescinds \$3.9 billion of the Pell Grant reserve** while keeping FY18 funding at last year's level.
  
- ▶ **Instead of gutting funds from our public schools and handing it over to private schools, we should:**
  - **Get serious about doing what works and invest in neighborhood public schools** so that students have inviting classrooms, a well-rounded curriculum, class sizes that are small enough for one-on-one attention, and support services such as health care, nutrition and after-school programs for students who need them.
  - If Congress cuts education funding it would undermine the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) just as states and local schools are beginning to implement the new law.
  
- ▶ **Congress must strike a bipartisan budget deal that raises the rigid funding caps and provides room for key investments in education. And, Congress needs to reject ALL of Secretary DeVos' proposed cuts to our schools.**