

Trump's Budget Deprives Students of Opportunity



President Trump's budget slashes Department of Education funding by \$9 billion (13.5 percent). This rollback would set education funding (excluding Federal Pell Grants) to pre-2002 levels in current dollars, or before the onset of the No Child Left Behind Act. Public preK-12 and postsecondary enrollment has increased by 8.6 million students since 2001. While the initial budget offering was short on details, here is a list of what the budget does specify.

Increases:

- \$1.4 billion for “school choice,” with plans to ramp up to \$20 billion over time.

The new funding is comprised of the following increases:

- \$1 billion for Title I portability where funding follows a student to the public school of his or her choice, not necessarily a school that receives Title I – a concept Congress rejected during ESEA reauthorization
- \$250 million for a new private school voucher program
- \$168 million increase for charter schools

Program Eliminations:

- \$2.3 billion for teacher training and class-size reduction – **eliminates the supporting effective instruction teacher training state grant program (Title II)**
- \$1.2 billion for after school – **eliminates the 21st century community learning centers program**
- \$732 million for student grant aid – **eliminates the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants for low-income college students**

Cuts:

- \$3.9 billion from Pell Grants – **rescinding \$3.9 billion of the Pell Grant surplus** while keeping new 2018 funding at last year's level
- **\$92 million cut to TRIO** – a 10% cut
- \$104 million cut to GEAR UP student aid – a 32% cut, funding only continuation grants
- Unspecified **cut to Work Study student aid**
- Eliminates or reduces funding for a total of **20 categorical programs including:**
 - Striving Readers (\$190 million)
 - Teacher Quality Partnerships (\$43 million)
 - Impact Aid Support Payments for Federal Property (\$66 million)
 - International Education programs (\$72 million)

Funding Freezes:

- IDEA – maintained at the 2017 level of almost \$13 billion (16% of IDEA funding) – which falls short of Congress's commitment to fund 40% of IDEA
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions - the budget says it maintains funding at \$492 million, but that level is a cut of \$87 million from the current level

Other programs NEA follows that are not in the Department of Education:

- The budget is entirely **silent on Head Start and childcare**