



## **The Administration's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request to Congress**

March 11, 2019

The Administration has released the first installment of its Fiscal Year 2020 [budget request](#) to Congress today that proposes an overall reduction of \$2.7 trillion over the next ten years. For this next fiscal year that begins October 1, 2019, the budget request would reduce funding for education and other domestic programs by almost five percent. The budget request cuts discretionary funding to the Department of Education to \$62 billion, a 12 percent decrease from the FY19 enacted level. According to the Administration's budget – titled "A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First."—the proposed \$2.7 billion cut is "higher than any other administration in history." The second installment of the budget request is expected to be released in the coming days.

In Congress, efforts began recently to negotiate another bipartisan budget agreement to address the budgetary caps that would impose severe cuts to education and other domestic programs. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY) have spoken about efforts to prevent a budget sequester and have a proposed budget resolution for consideration in early April. Meanwhile, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) has expressed a commitment to ensuring that each of the twelve appropriations bills is considered before the start of the FY2020. Overall, it is important to remember that this budget request to Congress is among the first steps to reaching a final FY2020 budget and subsequent appropriations. The next steps include House and Senate hearings with Administration officials such as U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, House and Senate budget resolutions that will establish budget allocations for the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees managing the twelve appropriations bills, and negotiations between House and Senate appropriators to reach a consensus.

The following details provide a preliminary synopsis of the Administration's budget request. NSBA will include more details as the U.S. Department of Education and other agencies conduct their respective budget briefings this week. We are also actively communicating our policy priorities to Congress. We expect many aspects of this budget request to be a non-starter with the House Appropriations Committee.

### **U.S. Department of Education**

**Special Education** -- The budget proposal would level-fund special education, Title I and the Impact Aid program that helps districts education large populations of federally connected students. For special education, the federal share of funding that Congress initially promised in 1975 is up to 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure. However, the 40 percent promise has not been fulfilled; and, the federal share of special education funding would decline further under this request. Increasing the federal share of funding for special education is paramount and should be addressed before considering future funding for newly created programs that may not have proven results for program effectiveness.

Title II -- The budget request would eliminate 29 programs within the U.S. Department of Education including Title II programs for effective instruction, which are currently funding at \$2.3 billion. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, Title II programs for "Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, or Other School Leaders" support class-size reduction initiatives, professional development and in-service training for teachers, technology integration into curricula, training on data usage to improve student achievement and student data privacy, parental/community engagement, development of STEM master teacher corps, civics, and implementation of performance-based compensation systems. With ESSA implementation efforts underway that emphasize the role of effective teachers, principals and school leaders, the loss of Title II investments could impact state and local efforts to develop tools and incentives focused on strengthening instruction, improving student academic outcomes, and retaining effective educators, especially for schools in underserved communities.

The budget request also calls for the elimination of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, currently funded at \$1.2 billion, which provide afterschool programs for students. Last year's budget request also called for the elimination of this program; but, Congress chose to maintain this investment.

The Department's proposal for Education Freedom Scholarships announced February 28, to provide a new tax credit of \$50 billion over ten years to support private or public school choice, is included in the budget request that would allocate \$5 billion per year for a new federal tax credit for individual or corporate donations to state-authorized scholarship-granting organizations to be used for private school tuition, afterschool tutoring, extra courses, and certain public school expenses.

NSBA opposes efforts such as this latest federal tax scheme that encourage disinvestment in the success of our local public school districts and communities. This latest effort to divert public dollars away from public schools and communities is an expansion of the federal role in public education, and contrary to the intent of Congress in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Further, this proposal would encourage businesses and taxpayers to invest in schools outside of their respective states, thereby creating a disincentive for public-private partnerships and philanthropic programs that benefit local public schools.

The proposal ignores the fundamental reality that most public school districts already offer students a wide range of choices and opportunities. These vary from academic concentrations in specific areas such as the arts or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to different career pathways, advanced placement courses, and include magnet schools and charter schools authorized by local school boards to public specialty schools, such as military academies. School board officials support choice, and employ a lot of creative ideas to provide it, but sending tax dollars to schools that lack local supervision is not an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.

Increases Career Technical Education funding – Provides \$1.3 billion for state grants and \$20 million for national programs.

Would Eliminate Public Service Loan Forgiveness, stating that Eliminating this repayment forgiveness program saves the government \$53 billion over ten years – costs that are shifted to the borrowers. The PSLF program is critical to school districts attracting and retaining highly effective teachers and school leaders. NSBA opposes the elimination of the PSLF as part of Higher Education Act reauthorization efforts.

Census: Supports a Fair, Modern, and Accurate 2020 Decennial Census. April 1, 2020, is Census Day and marks the culmination of nearly a decade of design, research, and testing to meet the Administration's goal of conducting a complete, accurate, and fair Decennial Census. Required every 10 years by the Constitution, the Decennial Census is responsible for the allocation of congressional representation and more than \$675 billion of Federal funds to local communities. The 2020 Census will be the most modern census in the Nation's history, as households will have the choice to participate via the internet, telephone, or by paper. An accurate Decennial Census is imperative because of the role its data play in shaping and informing policymaking for the next decade. The Budget recognizes the importance of the Census Bureau's mandate by supporting \$7.2 billion in total budget authority in 2020.

School Safety – The budget calls for an increase of \$354 million, compared to FY2019, across a number of agencies, including the Department of Justice, for grants that give states and school districts resources to promote school safety.

Below, please find a quick reference guide on programs that may be of interest to you and your members.

### ***Every Student Succeeds Act***

- **Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies** – Proposed level funding at \$15.8 billion.
- **Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants** – Proposed for elimination.
- **Supporting Effective Educator Development Grants** – Proposed for elimination.
- **Title III English Language Acquisition** – Proposed level funding at \$737 million.
- **Title IV Part A Student Success and Academic Enrichment Grants** – Proposed for elimination.
- **Title IV Part B 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers** – Proposed for elimination.

### ***IDEA***

- **Grants to States** – Proposed level funding at \$12.36 billion.
- **Preschool Grants** – Proposed level funding at \$391 million.
- **Grants for Infants and Families** – Proposed level funding at \$470 million.

### ***Career and Technical Education***

- **State Grants** – Proposed level funding at \$1.26 billion.
- **National Programs** – Proposed \$12.6 million increase to \$20 million to support the new Innovation and Modernization national grant program.

**Charter Schools** – proposed \$60 million increase to \$500 million

Please reach out to [wriggs@nsba.org](mailto:wriggs@nsba.org) or [driggsby@nsba.org](mailto:driggsby@nsba.org) with any questions.