

IMPACT OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET ON CONNECTICUTⁱ

On Monday, May 22, President Donald J. Trump released details of his proposed budget for fiscal year 2018. Termed by the Trump administration as "A New Foundation for American Greatness," the budget proposal includes a 13.5 percent, or \$9.2 billion, cut to federal education spending in FY2018.ⁱ The proposed cuts include reductions to federal programs and formula grants that support K-12 education, as well as cuts to higher education, including student loan programs.ⁱⁱ However, this document only examines proposed K-12 federal spending for FY2018.

It is important to note that before any provision of the president's proposed budget is enacted, it must pass both chambers of Congress. As a result, it is highly likely that Congress will make significant changes to the president's proposal before passing any budget legislation. Notably, Congress has not passed an appropriations bill without a continuing resolution measure since 1996, and this has only happened four times since 1977.ⁱⁱⁱ

Q: How much of Connecticut's education funding currently comes from federal sources?

A: In FY2014, Connecticut spent nearly \$10.5 billion dollars on public education, which came from a combination of state, local, and federal sources. However, federal funds account for a relatively small portion of Connecticut's total education spending. In FY2017, federal funds for K-12 education in Connecticut accounted for approximately \$500 million, or four percent, of the state's total education spending.^{iv}

Q: How much total federal funding for elementary and secondary education would Connecticut lose if President Trump's budget were enacted?

A: The president's proposed budget includes \$31.9 million in cuts to federal support for K-12 education in Connecticut for FY2018.^v

Q: What federal programs has President Trump proposed eliminating entirely?

A: The president's budget proposes that Supporting Effective Instruction state grants (better known as Title IIA) be eliminated.^{vi} These grants support professional development for teachers, the reduction of class sizes, and the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP), among other state programs to support educator effectiveness.^{vii} In addition, the president's budget proposes the elimination of the 21st Century Learning Centers grant. These funds support enrichment opportunities, primarily for low-income students.^{viii} Many states use 21st Century Learning Centers funding to support before and after school programming.^{ix} These are the two largest programs the president has proposed eliminating entirely; however, a number of smaller programs have also been proposed for elimination, including arts, civics, literacy, parent engagement, gifted and talented, preschool, and community school programs.^x

Q: What other changes to education funding has the president proposed?

A: The president has proposed changing the way Title I grants are appropriated. The president's budget proposal removes the \$550 million increase in Title I approved by Congress this year, as the budget proposal compares projected funding with the 2017 continuing resolution level.^{xi} The proposal also sets

ⁱ Unless otherwise cited, all nationwide FY2018 proposed funding is compared to FY2017 continuing resolution amounts. Proposed cuts that total less than \$50,000, statewide, are not included.

U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs, Connecticut*. Available from <http://www.ctschoolfinance.org/assets/uploads/files/Trump-Education-Budget-Impact-on-CT.xlsx>.

aside \$1 billion in Title I funding to support districts that participate in a new program called Furthering Options for Children to Unlock Success (FOCUS), which is intended to promote school choice programs and is authorized under Title I-E.^{xii} In short, the president's proposed budget contains a net increase in Title I funding of \$450 million, under the FOCUS program, with an additional \$550 million of Title I-A funding re-appropriated to the same purpose.^{xiii} Under the proposal, FOCUS grants will be made to Title I-eligible districts that "differentiate funding based on student characteristics and allow the funds a student generates to follow the student to a school of choice."^{xiv} However, it is unclear what the requirements would be for districts to access these funds. In addition, the proposed budget increases federal funding for charter schools by \$167 million and for private school vouchers by \$250 million.^{xv}

Q: What are the specific proposed cuts to federal education aid in Connecticut under the president's budget?

A: The president's proposed budget includes an estimated total of \$31,859,852 in cuts to K-12 federal education aid for Connecticut. These cuts include:

- **\$4 million in cuts to Title I funds to districts**
The president's proposed budget would reduce Connecticut's Title I funding to districts by 3.1 percent.^{xvi} These funds are distributed by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to districts or schools with high populations of low-income students, based on four formulas in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.^{xvii}
- **\$86,670 in cuts to Impact Aid**
This is a 1.9 percent cut to Impact Aid. These funds are distributed to districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt properties that are owned by the federal government.^{xviii}
- **\$19.2 million in cuts to Supporting Effective Instruction grants (Title II-A)**
The president's proposed budget would eliminate Title II-A funds to all states. These funds are distributed to districts and schools to support professional learning opportunities for teachers.^{xix} In FY2017, 157 Connecticut districts and schools received some Title II-A funds.^{xx}
- **\$9.6 million in cuts to 21st Century Learning Centers**
The president's proposed budget would eliminate the 21st Century Learning Centers funds to all states. In Connecticut, these funds are currently distributed by the CSDE to 57 different nonprofits, school districts, and RESCs that provide out-of-school enrichment programs for low-income students.^{xxi}
- **\$89,857 in cuts to English Language Acquisition funding**
This is a 1.4 percent decrease in federal funding to support English Learners in Connecticut.
- **\$61,244 in cuts to Homeless Children and Youth Education funding**
This is a 9.5 percent decrease in federal funding to support the education of homeless youth in Connecticut.
- **\$1.27 million in cuts to Special Education grants**
This is a 0.9 percent reduction in federal funding to support special education in Connecticut.
- **\$1.8 million in cuts to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grants**
This is an 18.5 percent reduction in federal support for Career and Technical Education. In FY2017, these funds supported career and technical education in 84 Connecticut districts.

Endnotes

- ⁱ Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of Management and Budget. (2017). *A New Foundation For American Greatness: Budget of the U.S. Government, Fiscal Year 2018* [Table S–8. 2018 Discretionary Overview by Major Agency], 42. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/budget.pdf>.
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- ⁱⁱⁱ Saturno, J.V., Heniff, B. Jr., & Lynch, M.S. (2016). *The Congressional Appropriations Process: An Introduction* (CRS Report No. R42388). Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service. Retrieved from <https://www.senate.gov/CRSpubs/8013e37d-4a09-46f0-b1e2-c14915d498a6.pdf>.
- ^{iv} U.S. Department of Commerce, United States Census Bureau. (2016). *Public Education Finances: 2014*. Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/econ/g14-aspef.pdf>.
- ^v U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs, Connecticut*. Available from <http://www.ctschoolfinance.org/assets/uploads/files/Trump-Education-Budget-Impact-on-CT.xlsx>.
- ^{vi} Ibid.
- ^{vii} U.S. Department of Education. (2015). *Findings from the 2014-15 Survey on the Use of Funds under Title II, Part A: Subgrants to LEAs*. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/learport.pdf>.
- ^{viii} Connecticut State Department of Education. (2016, March 16). 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Retrieved from <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320810>.
- ^{ix} Afterschool Alliance. (2017). *21st Century Community Learning Centers: Providing Locally Designed Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs for Families*. Washington, DC: Afterschool Alliance. Retrieved from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/21stCCLC-Overview-2017.pdf>.
- ^x Strauss, V. (2017, May 18). Here are K-12 education programs Trump wants to eliminate in 2018 budget. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/05/18/here-are-k-12-education-programs-trump-wants-to-eliminate-in-2018-budget/?utm_term=.70fdeaa58c8c.
- ^{xi} U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Education for the Disadvantaged: Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request*. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget18/justifications/a-ed.pdf>.
- ^{xii} U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs, Connecticut*. Available from <http://www.ctschoolfinance.org/assets/uploads/files/Trump-Education-Budget-Impact-on-CT.xlsx>.
- ^{xiii} U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Education for the Disadvantaged: Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request*. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget18/justifications/a-ed.pdf>.
- ^{xiv} Ibid.
- ^{xv} Ibid.
- ^{xvi} U.S. Department of Education. (2017). *Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs, Connecticut*. Available from <http://www.ctschoolfinance.org/assets/uploads/files/Trump-Education-Budget-Impact-on-CT.xlsx>.
- ^{xvii} U.S. Department of Education. (2015, October 5). Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (Title I, Part A). Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html?exp=0>.
- ^{xviii} U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. (2017, March 21). About Impact Aid. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/impactaid/whatisia.html>.
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- ^{xxi} Connecticut State Department of Education. (2016, March 16). 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Retrieved from <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320810>.