

August 22, 2025

President Donald Trump's budget request for fiscal year 2026 contrasts sharply with a bipartisan budget bill the Senate Appropriations Committee passed in late July to fund education programs and services over the next year.<sup>1,2</sup> While President Trump's proposed budget called for steep funding reductions for the U.S. Department of Education's funding, the Senate Appropriations Committee's budget largely rejected the cuts and chose to preserve existing programs.

This document summarizes the key similarities and differences between the two budget proposals and presents a side-by-side comparison table of selected education programs.

### Key Takeaways

- Both the Trump administration's and the Senate Appropriations Committee's budgets maintain FY 2024 funding levels for Title I, Pell Grants, and Impact Aid.
- The president's budget seeks to consolidate 18 competitive and formula grant programs into a single \$2 billion "K-12 Simplified Funding Program."
  - The Senate Appropriations bill (S. 2587) rejected this approach and instead maintains or increases funding for these individual grant programs, including: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants, State Assessments, Rural Education, Magnet School Assistance, and Arts in Education.
- President Trump's budget proposal slightly increases grants for charter schools, but consolidates and reduces other innovative school programs, including: magnet schools, Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED), and statewide family engagement centers.
  - The Senate bill preserves funding for these programs, though sometimes at slightly reduced amounts.
- The Trump administration proposed a modest increase to IDEA state grants but cut national activities. The Senate bill continues prior levels of both grants.
- The president's budget proposes eliminating funding for several higher education programs, including: TRIO, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), Federal Work Study and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG).
  - The Senate bill maintains funding for these programs at FY 2024 levels.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education. (2025). *Budget Tables: FY 2026 President's Budget Request*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/fy-2026-presidents-budget-request-110152.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> S.2587 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026. (2025, July 31). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2587>

- The Trump administration's budget proposes cutting funding for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights by 35% while the Senate bill maintains FY 2024 funding levels.

Table 1 below presents the FY 2024 final appropriation for select educational programs, alongside the budget proposals from President Trump and the Senate Appropriations Committee's bill. All dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

**Table 1: Select Education Program Funding in President Trump's Budget Request vs. Senate Appropriations Committee's Bill**

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026
<b>Education for the Disadvantaged</b>			
Grants to Local LEAs – Basic Grants (Section 1124)	\$6.459 billion	\$6.459 billion	\$6.459 billion
Targeted grants (Section 1125)	\$5.293 billion	\$5.293 billion	\$5.318 billion
Title I-A	\$18.408 billion	\$18.407 billion	\$18.687 billion
Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants (ESEA II B-2, Section 2222)	\$194 million	\$0	\$194 million
Innovative Approaches to Literacy (ESEA II B-2, Section 2226)	\$30 million	\$30 million	\$30 million
State Agency Programs: Migrants (ESEA I-C)	\$376 million	\$0	\$376 million
State Agency programs: Neglected, delinquent, and at-risk children and youth (ESEA I-D)	\$49 million	\$0	\$49 million
Special programs for migrant students (HEA IV-A-5)	\$52 million	\$0	\$52 million
<b>Impact Aid (ESEA VII)</b>			
Impact Aid (ESEA VII) – payments for federally connected children, facilities maintenance, construction, and payments for federal property	\$1.625 billion	\$1.625 billion	\$1.625 billion
<b>School Improvement Programs</b>			
Supporting effective instruction State grants (ESEA II-A)	\$2.191 billion	\$0	\$2.191 billion
21 <sup>st</sup> Century community learning centers (ESEA IV-B)	\$1.330 billion	\$0	\$1.330 billion
State assessments (ESEA I-B, Sections 1201-1203)	\$380 million	\$0	\$380 million
Education for homeless children and youths (MVHAA Title VII-B)	\$129 million	\$0	\$129 million

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026
Native Hawaiian education (ESEA VI-B)	\$46 million	\$0	\$46 million
Alaska Native education (ESEA VI-C)	\$45 million	\$0	\$45 million
Training and advisory services (CRA IV)	\$7 million	\$0	\$7 million
Rural education (ESEA V-B)	\$220 million	\$0	\$225 million
Comprehensive centers (ETAA Section 203)	\$50 million	\$0	\$50 million
Student support and academic enrichment grants (ESEA IV-A)	\$1.380 billion	\$0	\$1.380 billion
K-12 Simplified Funding	\$0	\$2.00 billion	\$0
<b>Indian Education (ESEA VI)</b>			
Indian Education (VI) grants to LEAs, special programs for Indian children, and national activities	\$195 million	\$195 million	\$195 million
<b>Innovation and Improvement</b>			
Education innovation and research (ESEA IV-F-1)	\$259 million	\$0	\$235 million
Teacher and school leader incentive grants (ESEA II-B-1)	\$60 million	\$0	\$60 million
American history and civics education (ESEA II-B-3)	\$23 million	\$0	\$23 million
Supporting effective educator development (SEED) (ESEA II-B-4, Section 2242)	\$90 million	\$0	\$90 million
Charter school grants (ESEA IV-C)	\$440 million	\$500 million	\$400 million
Magnet schools assistance (ESEA IV-D)	\$139 million	\$0	\$139 million
Ready to learn programming (ESEA IV-F-4, Section 4643)	\$31 million	\$0	\$29 million
Arts in education (ESEA IV-F-4, Section 4642)	\$37 million	\$0	\$32 million
Javits gifted and talented education (ESEA IV-F-4, Section 4644)	\$17 million	\$0	\$17 million
Statewide family engagement centers (ESEA IV-E)	\$20 million	\$0	\$20 million
Community Project Funding/Congressionally directed spending	\$88 million	\$0	\$100 million

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026
<b>Safe Schools and Citizenship Education</b>			
School safety national activities, promise neighborhoods, and full-service community schools (ESEA IV-F-2, F-3)	\$457 million	\$0	\$416 million
<b>English Language Acquisition</b>			
Language instruction for English Learners and immigrant students (ESEA III-A)	\$890 million	\$0	\$890 million
<b>Special Education</b>			
Grants to states (IDEA B-611)	\$14.214 billion	\$14.891 billion	\$14.264 billion
Preschool grants (IDEA B-619)	\$420 million	\$0	\$420 million
Grants for infants and families (IDEA C)	\$540 million	\$540 million	\$540 million
National Activities (IDEA D), including state personnel development, technical assistance, personnel, preparation, parent information centers, and educational technology/media services	\$258 million	\$0	\$258 million
Special Olympics	\$36 million	\$36 million	\$36 million
<b>Rehabilitation Services</b>			
Rehabilitation Services, including vocational rehabilitation state grants, client assistance state grants, training, demonstration and training programs, protection and advocacy of individual rights, and Hellen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults	\$4.397 billion	\$4.556 billion	\$4.647 billion
<b>Career, Technical, and Adult Education</b>			
State grants (Title I)	\$1.4 billion	\$1.4 billion	\$1.4 billion
National programs	\$12 million	\$10 million	\$12 million
Adult education, including adult basic and literacy education state grants and national leadership activities	\$729 million	\$0	\$729 million

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026
<b>Student Financial Assistance</b>			
Federal Pell grants (HEA IV-A-I) (Discretionary)	\$22.475 billion	\$22.475 billion	\$22.475 billion
Campus based programs, including federal work study and federal supplemental opportunity grants	\$2.140 billion	\$250 million	\$2.140 billion
<b>Student Aid Administration (HEA I-D and IV-D, Section 458)</b>			
Student Aid Administration, including salaries, expenses, and servicing activities	\$2.059 billion	\$2.059 billion	\$2.059 billion
<b>Higher Education</b>			
Aid for institutional development, including strengthening institutions (HEA III-A, section 311), developing Hispanic-serving institutions, promoting postbaccalaureate opportunities for Hispanic Americans, and strengthening HBCUs, predominantly Black institutions, Historically Black graduate institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander- serving institutions, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities	\$1.036 billion	\$923 million	\$1.031 billion
International education and foreign language studies	\$87 million	\$0	\$81 million
Transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$14 million
Tribally controlled postsecondary CTE institutions (CTEA Section 117)	\$12 million	\$12 million	\$12 million
Federal TRIO programs (HEA IV-A-2, Chapter 1)	\$1.191 billion	\$0	\$1.191 billion
Gaining early awareness and readiness for undergraduate programs (GEAR UP)	\$388 million	\$0	\$388 million
Graduate assistance in areas of national need	\$24 million	\$0	\$24 million
Teacher quality partnership (HEA II-A)	\$70 million	\$0	\$65 million
Child care access means parents in school (HEA IV-A-7)	\$75 million	\$0	\$75 million
Fund for the improvement of postsecondary education (HEA VII-B)	\$171 million	\$0	\$146 million

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026
Hawkins Centers of Excellence (HEA II-B-2)	\$15 million	\$0	\$15 million
<b><i>Institute of Education Sciences</i></b>			
Research, development, and dissemination (ESRA I-A, B and D, except Section 174)	\$245 million	\$0	\$245 million
Statistics (ESRA I-C)	\$122 million	\$0	\$122 million
Regional educational laboratories (ESRA Section 174)	\$54 million	\$0	\$54 million
Assessment (NAEPPA)	\$193 million	\$137 million	\$193 million
Research in special education (ESRA, Part E)	\$64 million	\$0	\$64 million
Statewide longitudinal data systems (ETAA Section 208)	\$29 million	\$0	\$29 million
Special education studies and evaluations (IDEA, Section 664)	\$13 million	\$0	\$13 million
Program administration	\$74 million	\$0	\$74 million
Unallocated	\$0	\$124 million	\$0
<b><i>Departmental Management</i></b>			
Program and Administration, including salaries and expenses	\$420 million	\$293 million	\$380 million
Office for Civil Rights (DEOA, Section 203)	\$140 million	\$91 million	\$140 million
Office of Inspector General (DEOA, Section 211)	\$68 million	\$63 million	\$68 million