

On May 30, 2025, President Donald Trump released his full federal budget request for the next fiscal year (FY 2026). Relative to the previously released “skinny budget,” this complete budget document provides deeper insight into President Trump’s education policy changes proposed for the next fiscal year. The president’s budget request proposes to decrease funding for the U.S. Department of Education by \$12 billion, or 15%, and includes changes to federal policies and appropriations for K-12 public education that will impact students in every level of education across the country.¹

President Trump’s full budget request provides greater detail on the proposed consolidation and reduction of funding through the K-12 Simplified Funding Program (K-12 SFP), the consolidation of special education programs into the IDEA Grants to States program, and the consolidation and reduction of education research investments. This briefing provides deeper insight into the key proposed funding consolidations and the potential impacts on Connecticut students and school districts.

This document is a companion piece to the School and State Finance Project’s overview of President Trump’s skinny budget proposal, which is linked below:
[K-12 Education Funding in President Trump’s FY 2026 Initial Budget Request.](#)

Key Takeaways

- The proposed consolidation and reduction into the K-12 SFP would **result in a cut of \$4.5 billion** in federal elementary and secondary education support — a **reduction of approximately 70%**.
 - Connecticut received about **\$68 million in federal funding in FY 2024** from the programs poised for reduction.
 - These 18 programs provide key supports for high-need student populations and specialized school programs that drive improvement in student outcomes.
- The proposed consolidation of special education programs into the IDEA Grants to States program would **shift funding away from preschool support, research, and staff development efforts**.
 - Connecticut received roughly **\$9 million in FY 2024** from the programs proposed for consolidation.
- The proposed reduction and consolidation of the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) results in a cut of **\$476 million, or 80%, to education research investments**. The president’s budget proposal requests \$124 million for the IES in FY 2026, however, it does not contain a plan for how those funds would be used.
 - Connecticut currently receives approximately **\$3.9 million through a multi-year grant** from the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) program, which is slated for consolidation and reduction in this proposal.

Proposed K-12 Simplified Funding Program (K-12 SFP)²

President Trump's budget proposal consolidates, and reduces funding for, 18 elementary and secondary education grant programs into a single state formula grant to be called the K-12 Simplified Funding Program (K-12 SFP). The specific implementation details of this proposed new program — such as funding distribution, eligibility, requirements, and fund use — are not yet available, but the president's budget proposal highlights flexibility in fund use as a rationale for the consolidation.³

Chart 1 below shows the impact of the reduction in funding across the 18 programs proposed for consolidation. If implemented, the K-12 SFP would decrease funding by \$4.5 billion (approximately 70%) nationwide.

Chart 1: Current Funding for Existing Programs vs. Proposed FY 2026 Funding for Consolidated K-12 Simplified Funding Program (K-12 SFP)

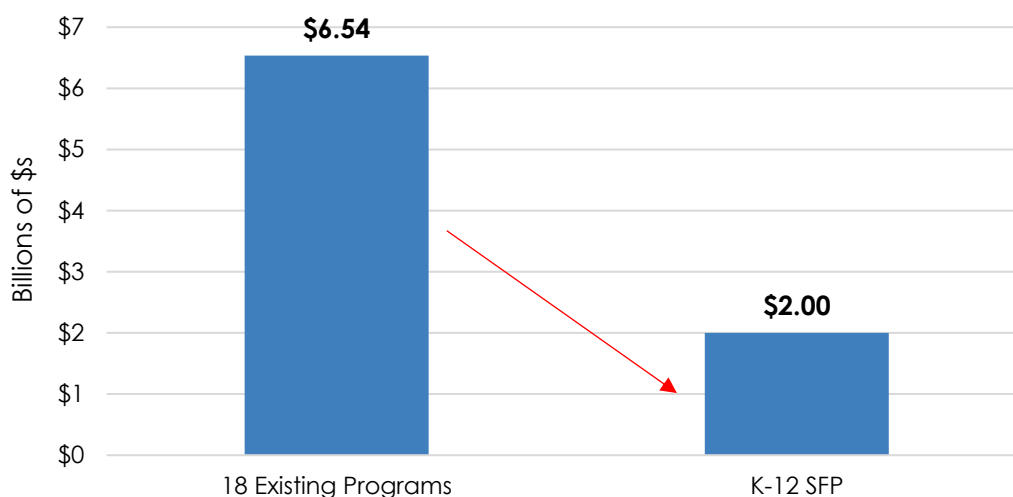


Table 1 on the following page provides an overview of the 18 existing programs proposed for consolidation and reduction along with their FY 2024 estimated funding amounts and the estimated funding Connecticut receives from each program. Please note that at this time it is unclear if or how the allocations and programmatic requirements for the 18 programs proposed for consolidation would continue should the K-12 SFP be implemented.

Table 1: Programs Proposed for K-12 SFP Consolidation and Reduction

Program	Description ⁴	FY 24 Final Appropriation (Millions of \$) ⁵	FY 24 Estimated CT Funding (Millions of \$)
Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants	Provides competitive grants to improve evidence-based literacy instruction in underserved schools.	\$194.0	\$0.0 ⁶
Innovative Approaches to Literacy	Provides competitive grants supporting projects that promote literacy through library programs, literacy services, and other approaches.	\$30.0	\$0.0 ⁷
Neglected, Delinquent, and At-Risk Children and Youth	Provides formula grants to states to support the education of children and youth in local and state-run institutions.	\$49.2	\$1.0 ⁸
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	Provides formula grants to states and then districts to increase achievement by improving instruction and increasing access to effective educators.	\$2,190.1	\$16.6 ⁹
21st Century Community Learning Centers	Program enables states to support centers providing wraparound services aimed at improving student outcomes and well-being.	\$1,329.7	\$11.0 ¹⁰
State Assessments	Program assists states to administer high-quality aligned assessment systems as part of ESSA implementation.	\$380.0	\$5.1 ¹¹
Education For Homeless Children and Youths	Provides formula grants to states and then school districts to help homeless children enroll, attend, and succeed in school.	\$129.0	\$1.1 ¹²
Native Hawaiian Education	Program makes competitive awards to support additional education services for Native Hawaiian population.	\$45.9	\$0.0 ¹³
Alaska Native Education	Program makes competitive awards to support additional education services for Alaska Native population.	\$45.0	\$0.0 ¹⁴
Rural Education	Program helps rural districts implement activities to improve quality of teaching and learning.	\$220.0	\$1.4 ¹⁵
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	Program provides formula grants to states and then school districts to support well-rounded education opportunities, safe and healthy students, and effective technology use.	\$1,380.0	\$11.4 ¹⁶

Program	Description ⁴	FY 24 Final Appropriation (Millions of \$) ⁵	FY 24 Estimated CT Funding (Millions of \$)
American History and Civics Education	Program supports the improvement and quality of American history and civics education through workshops and promotion of evidence-based instruction.	\$23.0	\$0.0 ¹⁷
Magnet Schools Assistance	Program assists districts in the desegregation of schools by supporting the elimination, reduction and prevention of racial and ethnic isolation.	\$139.0	\$10.0 ¹⁸
Arts In Education	Promotes arts education through professional development, dissemination of instructional materials and programming, and community outreach.	\$36.5	\$0.0 ¹⁹
Javits Gifted and Talented Education	Program supports research, demonstration projects, and strategies to identify gifted children and meet their needs.	\$16.5	\$1.7 ²⁰
Statewide Family Engagement Centers	Provides funding to statewide organizations to establish statewide centers that promote parent and family engagement.	\$20.0	\$0.0 ²¹
School Safety National Activities	Program authorizes activities (including competitive grants) that improve student safety and well-being.	\$216.0	\$2.5 ²²
Promise Neighborhoods	Program provides competitive grants to support improvement of academic and developmental outcomes in distressed communities.	\$91.0	\$6.3 ²³

Proposed IDEA Grants to States Consolidation (IDEA Part B Sec. 611)

President Trump's budget proposal also contains a program consolidation for six special education programs that currently serve specific high-need populations through grant allocations. The president's proposal would shift this funding into the "Grants to States" program, commonly known as IDEA Part B Sec. 611. In this program, grant amounts for local education agencies (LEAs) are based on 75% of what was distributed in 1999, the relative school-aged population of the district (ages 3-21), and the relative poverty level of the district as measured by the number of children living in poverty.^A

Table 2 below provides an overview of the six programs proposed to be consolidated under the existing Grants to States program. Additionally, the table includes the amount of funding allocated to each program in FY 2024, both nationwide and for Connecticut.

Table 2: Special Education Programs Proposed for Consolidation

Program	Description	FY 24 Final Appropriation (Millions of \$) ²⁴	FY 24 Estimated CT Funding (Millions of \$) ²⁵
Preschool Grants (Sec. 619)	Provides formula grants to states to provide special education and related services for children with disabilities aged 3 to 5. ²⁶	\$420.0	\$5.4 ²⁷
State Personnel Development	Provides discretionary grants to assist states in improving staff preparation and professional development for intervention, education, and transition services for students with disabilities. ²⁸	\$38.6	\$0.0 ²⁹
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	Provides competitive grants to provide technical assistance, support demonstration projects, share information and implement research-based activities. ³⁰	\$39.4	\$0.7 ³¹
Personnel Preparation	Provides competitive grants to support states in preparing special education and early intervention staff to ensure an adequate number of effective providers. ³²	\$115.0	\$2.7 ³³
Parent Information Centers	Provides discretionary grants to organizations to ensure parents of children with disabilities receive high-quality and useful training and information to help improve outcomes for their children. ³⁴	\$33.2	\$0.4 ³⁵

^A For more information on the allocation of IDEA Part B Subgrants to LEAs, please see: Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting. (2017). *Quick Reference Guide on the Allocation of IDEA Part B Subgrants to Local Educational Agencies*. San Francisco, CA: WestEd. Retrieved from <https://cifir.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CIFR-QRG-LEA-Allocations.pdf>.

Program	Description	FY 24 Final Appropriation (Millions of \$) ²⁴	FY 24 Estimated CT Funding (Millions of \$) ²⁵
Educational Technology, Media, and Materials	Provides discretionary grants to education agencies and nonprofits to promote technology development and use, support education activities of educational value, provide support for captioning and video description, and provide accessible education materials to children with disabilities. ³⁶	\$31.4	\$0.0 ³⁷

Proposed Consolidation & Reduction of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

President Trump's budget proposal also contains program consolidation and reduction for seven existing programs housed within the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and primarily authorized through the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA). The IES is the statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Education, charged with providing scientific evidence to ground education practices and policies.³⁸ Along with establishing the IES and the four research centers^B of the U.S. Department of Education, the ESRA authorizes much of the federal government's collection of education data and conducting of education research.³⁹

The president's proposed budget would consolidate seven programs, which received a combined \$599.8 million in FY 2024, into a single undefined future program. This undefined future program is funded with \$124 million in FY 2026, which equates to a reduction of \$476 million, or 80%, for these programs. Per the president's budget materials, *"The Administration is currently in the midst of reimagining a more efficient, effective, and useful IES that can meet statutory requirements under the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA) in fiscal year 2026 and improve support for evidence-based accountability, data-driven decision making, and education research for use in the classroom."*⁴⁰

Table 3 on the following page provides an overview of the seven programs proposed for consolidation and reduction along with the amount of funding allocated to each program in FY 2024 both nationwide and for Connecticut specifically.

^B Research centers include: the National Center for Education Research (NCER), the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE), and the National Center for Special Education Research (NCSE).

Table 3: Research Programs Proposed for Consolidation and Reduction

Program	Description	FY 24 Final Appropriation (Millions of \$) ⁴¹	FY 24 Estimated CT Funding (Millions of \$) ⁴²
Research, Development & Dissemination	Supports research activities that improve education quality and increase student achievement, reduce achievement gaps, and increase access to postsecondary education. ⁴³	\$245.0	
Statistics	Supports the activities of the National Center for Education Statistics. ⁴⁴	\$121.5	
Regional Education Laboratories	Supports the 10 Regional Education Laboratories, which collaborate with states and LEAs to generate and apply evidence to improve outcomes. ⁴⁵	\$53.7	
Research in Special Education	Program funds research into the development and learning of students with disabilities, and the identification of best practices. ⁴⁶	\$64.3	
Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems	Provides competitive grants to design, develop, implement and expand state longitudinal data systems. ⁴⁷	\$28.5	\$3.9 million as part of 2023-27 multiyear grant to improve P20-WIN data system.
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	Funds the evaluations of state and local special education efforts with regard to effectiveness. ⁴⁸	\$13.3	
Program Administration	Salaries and administrative expenses for IES. ⁴⁹	\$73.5	

Endnotes

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