



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education (ED) is responsible for assisting States, school districts, and institutions of higher education in providing high-quality education to all students and addressing the inequitable barriers underserved students face in education. The President's 2024 Budget for ED: makes critical investments to spur the Nation's future prosperity; addresses learning and funding gaps between more and less advantaged students; bolsters mental health supports for students; expands access to high-quality preschool; meets the needs of students with disabilities; increases affordability and quality in higher education; and invests in programs to improve connections between the K-12 system, higher education, and the workforce.

The Budget requests \$90 billion in discretionary budget authority for 2024, a \$10.8 billion or 13.6-percent increase from the 2023 enacted level.

The President's 2024 Budget:

Pre-K to -12th Grade Education

- **Invests in High-Poverty Schools.** To help ensure that every student receives a high-quality education, the Budget provides \$20.5 billion for Title I, a \$2.2 billion increase above the 2023 enacted level. This funding would continue historic progress over the past two years, as the Congress has provided a total increase of \$1.9 billion for Title I since 2021. Title I delivers critical funding to 90 percent of school districts across the Nation, helping them to provide students in low-income communities the academic opportunities and support they need to succeed. This investment addresses chronic funding gaps between high-poverty schools—which disproportionately serve students of color—and their wealthier counterparts and would help schools sustain critical investments in accelerated learning and other areas that were made with American Rescue Plan funds.
- **Expands Access to High-Quality Preschool.** The Budget includes a major new mandatory funding proposal for a Federal-State partnership to provide free, high-quality preschool offered in the setting of a parent's choice—from public schools to child care providers to Head Start. The proposal gives States the flexibility to expand preschool to three-year-old children once they make high-quality preschool fully available to four-year-old children. Over the next 10 years, this proposal would dramatically expand access to effective early childhood education, ensuring students enter kindergarten ready to succeed. This proposal would be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with ED. The Budget also includes \$500 million for demonstration grants to create or expand free, high-quality preschool in school or community-based settings for children eligible to attend Title I schools. The demonstration grants, which would require close collaboration among school districts, Head Start, and other community-based providers, would serve as models

that could be adopted across the Nation. This program would expand its reach by encouraging districts to leverage Title I funds, along with other Federal, State, and local funds.

- **Bolsters Mental Health Supports for All Students.** Just as physical health and nutrition is critical to learning, so too is mental health. The lingering impacts of COVID-19 pandemic disruptions have taken a heavy toll on the physical and mental health of many students, teachers, and school staff. Research shows that students who receive social, emotional, and mental and behavioral supports perform better academically. The Budget provides \$578 million to increase the number of school-based counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other health professionals in K-12 schools and to support colleges and universities develop campus-wide strategies to address student mental health needs including hiring additional providers on their campuses. This funding is in addition to the \$1 billion the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act provided to address mental health staffing shortages in schools.
- **Increases Support for Children with Disabilities.** Every child with a disability should have access to the high-quality early intervention, special education services, and personnel needed to thrive in school and graduate ready for college or a career. The Budget invests \$16.8 billion in Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants to support special education and related services for more than 7 million students with disabilities in grades Pre-K through 12, an increase of \$2.1 billion above the 2023 enacted level. The Budget also invests \$932 million in IDEA Part C grants, an increase of \$392 million above the 2023 enacted level, which support early intervention services for infants and families with disabilities that are critical to supporting children’s developmental and academic outcomes. The increased funding would support States in implementing important reforms to expand enrollment of underserved children, including children of color, children from low-income families, and children living in rural areas. The increase includes \$200 million to expand and streamline enrollment of children at risk of developing disabilities, such as children born with very low-birth weight or who have been exposed to environmental toxins, which would help mitigate the need for more extensive services later in childhood and further expand access to the program for underserved children. To address persistent special educator shortages States are facing, the Budget also invests \$304 million to train and retain special education teachers, related service providers, and early intervention personnel. In addition, the Budget invests \$20 million to ensure military-connected children with disabilities and other highly mobile children with disabilities maintain services when they change school districts.
- **Supports Full-Service Community Schools.** Community schools play a critical role in providing comprehensive wrap-around services to students and their families, including afterschool programs, adult education opportunities, and health and nutrition services. The Budget provides \$368 million for this program, an increase of \$218 million above the 2023 enacted level. The increase would also help school districts implement integrated student supports to meet student and family social, emotional, mental, and physical health needs through partnerships with community-based organizations and other entities.
- **Addresses Critical Educator Shortages.** While the education sector has faced shortages in critical staffing areas for decades, those shortages have grown worse since the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the importance of building strong pipelines into the profession and retaining educators. The Budget includes \$93 million for Supporting Effective Education Development, an increase of \$13 million above the 2023 enacted level, \$132 million for the Teacher Quality Partnership program, an increase of \$62 million above the 2023 enacted level, and \$30 million for the Hawkins Centers of Excellence program, an increase of \$15 million above the 2023 enacted level, to expand the number of prospective teachers and improve the

diversity of the teacher pipeline. The Budget also includes critical investments in recruitment and retention of teachers and school leaders, and provides \$200 million for the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Fund, \$27 million above the 2023 enacted level, and \$40 million for School Leader Recruitment and Support to support such activities.

- **Supports Multilingual Learners.** Students learning English as a second language were disproportionately impacted by disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, and schools face a shortage of bilingual teachers. The Budget provides \$1.2 billion for the English Language Acquisition program, an increase of \$305 million above the 2023 enacted level, to help students learning English attain English proficiency and achieve academic success. The Budget proposes a total of \$100 million for staffing needs, with \$90 million in dedicated funding to help schools hire more bilingual teachers and allow States and districts to provide professional development on multilingual education for existing teachers and staff, and \$10 million for postsecondary fellowships to bolster the multilingual educator pipeline. In addition, the Budget includes \$25 million to support a new World Languages program to assist districts in scaling up high-quality second language learning and instruction.
- **Fosters Diverse Schools.** Racial isolation and concentrated poverty in schools can undermine their ability to provide an equal opportunity for all students to learn and succeed. The Budget includes \$100 million for a grant program to support voluntary efforts by communities interested in developing and implementing strategies to promote racial and socioeconomic diversity in their schools.

Education Beyond High School

- **Reimagines the High School to Higher Education Transition.** Reimagining traditional educational pathways to higher education is critical to improving outcomes for all students. The Budget provides a \$200 million investment, focused on the Career-Connected High Schools initiative, to increase the integration and alignment of the last two years of high school and the first two years of higher education by expanding access to dual enrollment, work-based learning, college and career advising, and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials while in high school.
- **Improves College Affordability and Provides Free Community College.** To help low- and middle-income students overcome financial barriers to postsecondary education, the Budget proposes to increase the discretionary maximum Pell Grant by \$500, expanding access to the grant to reach over 6.8 million students. This request builds on successful bipartisan efforts to increase the maximum Pell Grant award by \$900 over the past two years, and provides a path to double the maximum award by 2029. The Budget also expands free community college across the Nation through a new Federal-State partnership. To lay the groundwork for this program, the Budget includes \$500 million in a new discretionary grant program to provide two-years of free community college for students enrolled in high-quality programs that lead to a four-year degree or a good-paying job. In addition, the Budget provides two years of subsidized tuition for students from families earning less than \$125,000 enrolled in a four-year Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Tribally Controlled College and University (TCCU), or Minority-Serving Institution (MSI).
- **Supports Students through Completion.** The Budget supports strategies to improve the retention, transfer, and completion rates of students by investing in the Federal TRIO Programs, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, and Postsecondary Student Success Grants Program. The Budget also promotes student success through the

creation of new funding for postsecondary mental health supports, and investments to build holistic systems of student supports and academic success by providing critical resources to support students' basic needs, including increased funding to help students access non-student aid public benefits and to provide affordable child care for low-income student parents.

- **Expands institutional capacity at HBCUs, TCCUs, MSIs, and Community Colleges.** The Budget increases institutional capacity at HBCUs, TCCUs, MSIs, and under-resourced institutions, including community colleges, by providing an increase of \$429 million above the 2023 enacted level. This significant funding includes \$350 million for four-year HBCUs, TCCUs, and MSIs to expand research and development infrastructure at these institutions.
- **Invests in Services for Student Borrowers.** The Budget provides \$2.7 billion for the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), a \$620 million increase above the 2023 enacted level. This additional funding is needed to provide better support to student loan borrowers, especially as they return to repayment. This increase would allow FSA to implement critical improvements to student loan servicing, continue to modernize its digital infrastructure, and ensure the successful administration of its financial aid programs through a simplified and streamlined process for students and borrowers.

Office for Civil Rights

- **Strengthens Civil Rights Enforcement.** The Budget provides \$178 million to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), a 27-percent increase above the 2023 enacted level. This robust funding would ensure that OCR has sufficient capacity to protect equal access to education through the enforcement of civil rights laws.