



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education (ED) is responsible for assisting States, school districts, and institutions of higher education in providing a high-quality education to all students and addressing the inequitable barriers underserved students face in education. The President's 2025 Budget for ED makes critical investments to: spur the Nation's future prosperity; accelerate academic growth; bolster mental health supports for students at all levels; advance the needs of students with disabilities; increase affordability and quality in higher education; and improve connections between the K-12 system, higher education, and the workforce.

The Budget requests \$82 billion in discretionary funding for ED in 2025, a \$3.1 billion or 3.9-percent increase from the 2023 level.

The President's 2025 Budget:

Preschool to 12th Grade Education

- **Supports Academic Achievement for All Students, Particularly Students in Schools with High Rates of Poverty.** The disruptive effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning has added new urgency to the work of schools. The Budget includes \$8 billion in mandatory funding to provide Academic Acceleration and Achievement Grants to close opportunity and achievement gaps and speed the pace of learning recovery. Carrying forward efforts funded by the American Rescue Plan, these grants to school districts would support evidence-based strategies to increase school attendance, provide high-quality tutoring, and expand learning time, including both in the summer and in extended day or afterschool programs. To help ensure that every student receives the high-quality education they deserve, the Budget also provides \$18.6 billion for Title I, a \$200 million increase above the 2023 enacted level. This funding amount is \$2.1 billion higher than when the President took office, reflecting the President's strong commitment to expanding support for every American student. Title I, which reaches 90 percent of school districts across the Nation, delivers critical funding to schools in low-income communities so they can provide their students with the learning opportunities needed to recover academically from the COVID-19 pandemic and be successful after graduation.
- **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 to four-year olds, 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 learn. This

proposal would be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with ED. The Budget also includes \$25 million for incentive 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 incentive 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.** The mental health of students, teachers, and school staff is essential for their overall well-being and continued academic recovery, and continues to be a high priority of the Administration, which has delivered an additional \$2.1 billion to mental health programs since 2021. Research shows that students who receive social, emotional, mental, and behavioral supports have better outcomes, including performing better academically. The Budget provides a combined total of \$216 million for mental health programs, including \$200 million from the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, a 900-percent increase in program funding since 2021. These funds would help increase the number of school-based counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other mental health professionals in K-12 schools.
- **Addresses Critical Educator Shortages.** While the education sector has faced shortages in critical staffing areas for decades, these shortages have grown worse since the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the importance of retaining educators and building strong pipelines into the profession. Since 2021, the Administration has supported schools in addressing educator shortages, including by supporting the expansion of evidence-based pathways such as residencies and grow your own programs, which may be provided through teacher registered apprenticeships. The Budget includes \$90 million for Supporting Effective Education Development, \$95 million for the Teacher Quality Partnership program, and \$30 million for the Hawkins Centers of Excellence program, to expand the number of prospective teachers who have access to comprehensive, high-quality pathways 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 \$173 million for the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Fund.
- **Increases Support for Children with Disabilities.** To support high-quality special education services for over seven million Pre-K through 12 students with disabilities, the Budget provides \$14.4 billion for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Grants, a \$200 million increase over the 2023 enacted level. Since 2021, the Administration has secured a \$1.3 billion, or 10-percent, increase in annual funding for the program as well as an additional \$2.6 billion in American Rescue Plan funds to help students with disabilities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Budget also invests \$545 million in IDEA Grants for Infants and Families, to provide early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. To address nationwide special educator shortages, the Budget also invests \$125 million, which is \$10 million above the 2023 enacted level, in grants to prepare special education and early intervention personnel—addressing another critical educator shortage area.
- **Expands Full-Service Community Schools.** Community schools continue to be a high priority for the Administration as they 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, and have been demonstrated to improve academic and other outcomes for students. The Budget provides \$200 million for this program,

an increase of \$50 million above the 2023 enacted level, and a 500-percent, or \$120 million, increase in program funding since the beginning of the Administration.

- **Supports Multilingual Learners.** The number of students learning English as a second language continues to grow in the Nation’s schools, and multilingualism is a crucial skill that all students should develop to be competitive in a global economy. The Budget provides \$940 million for the English Language Acquisition program, an increase of \$50 million above the 2023 enacted level, to help students learning English attain English proficiency and achieve academic success. The Budget provides \$72 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.

Education Beyond 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 \$100 and thereby expand the reach of the program to over 7.2 million students. The Budget builds on successful bipartisan efforts to increase the maximum Pell Grant award by \$900 over the past two years—the largest increase in more than 10 years. The Budget provides a path to double the maximum award by 2029 for students attending public and non-profit institutions. The Budget excludes for-profit institutions from the mandatory increases due to evidence these institutions are least likely to provide good outcomes for students. The Budget also expands free community college across the Nation through a Federal-State partnership. 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).
- **Invests in Services for Student Borrowers.** The Budget provides \$2.7 billion for the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), a \$625 million increase above the 2023 enacted level. This additional funding is needed to provide better support to the 46 million student loan borrowers and make additional and necessary improvements to the new servicing system. This increase would allow FSA to continue to modernize its digital infrastructure and ensure the successful administration of its financial aid programs, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, through a simplified and streamlined process for students and borrowers.
- **Reduces College Costs for Students.** High college prices deter many young people from attending the colleges that would be best for them. The Budget includes a \$12 billion mandatory Reducing the Costs of College Fund that would fund three strategies to lower college costs for students. First, the fund would provide competitive awards for public institutions that affordably deliver a quality education, allowing those schools to use those funds either to serve more students or to share best practices so that other schools can become more affordable. Second, the Classroom to Career fund would also provide over \$7 billion for States to provide access to at least 12 credits of transferable career-connected dual enrollment credits to students while in high school—credits that can enable students to obtain postsecondary degrees more affordably. Third, the fund would support evidence-based strategies, such as the City University of New York’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs model, which increase college graduation rates, reduce cost burdens for students, and lower costs per graduate.
- **Eliminates the Origination Fee on Student Loans.** The Budget builds on the President’s historic actions to reduce student debt and the cost of college by eliminating the origination

fees charged to borrowers on every new Federal student loan. These unnecessary fees burden anyone who needs to borrow to help get an education and cost American families billions of dollars.

- **Reimagines the Transition from High School to Higher Education.** Reimagining traditional educational pathways to higher education is critical to improving outcomes for all students. The Budget doubles the funding provided in 2023 for national activities in career and technical education, including a focus on the Career-Connected High Schools initiative, which seeks 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 programs, work-based learning, college and career advising, and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials while in high school.
- **Supports Students through Graduation.** The Budget supports strategies to improve the enrollment, retention, transfer, and completion rates of students by investing in the Federal TRIO Programs and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, and by more than doubling funding for the Postsecondary Student Success Grants Program. The Budget also promotes student success through investments to support students' basic needs, including 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—including Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)—and Community Colleges.** The Budget increases institutional capacity at HBCUs, TCCUs, MSIs—including HSIs—and under-resourced institutions, including community colleges, by providing an increase of \$93 million above the 2023 enacted level. The Budget funding level is \$329 million higher than the 2021 enacted level, underscoring the President's commitment to increasing funding to historically under-served institutions. The Budget also doubles funding by providing \$100 million for four-year HBCUs, TCCUs, and MSIs to expand research and development infrastructure at these institutions, a program the President has championed since his first year in office to address historic disparities in Federal research and development funding to HBCUs, TCCUs, and MSIs.

Other Key Priorities

- **Strengthens Civil Rights Enforcement.** The Budget provides \$162 million to ED's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), a \$22 million increase above the 2023 enacted level. This funding would ensure that OCR has the personnel it needs to carry out its mission to protect equal access to education through the vigorous enforcement of civil rights laws.
- **Advances Opportunities and Manages Risks of Artificial Intelligence (AI).** AI has the potential to provide transformational academic programming and career opportunities for the Nation's students, but it also poses significant risks to the privacy, opportunity, and well-being of students and educators. To support implementation of Executive Order 14410, "Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence," the Budget includes additional resources to enhance the capacity of Department staff, schools, and postsecondary institutions to achieve the promise of AI while managing inherent risks.