



## **A FIRST LOOK AT THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2012 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATION**

Today, February 14, 2011, President Obama released his budget proposal for the federal fiscal year that begins October 1, 2011. The release of the President's Budget is only the first step in a long and often contentious process of appropriating money to the various federal agencies. In fact, work on the FY 2011 budget has not been completed as of this date, with federal programs being funded by a Continuing Resolution (CR) that runs through March 4. On February 11, the House Appropriations introduced a new CR to fund the federal government through the last seven months of the FY 2011 that represents a \$10 billion cut from the President's FY 2011 request.

Highlights of the President's FY 2012 budget request follow; some of the initiatives were mentioned in the State of the Union address last month. Overall, the President's budget proposal would fund the Department of Education at \$77 billion. That amount represents a request of \$48.8 billion in non-Pell grant discretionary appropriations for the Department, an increase of \$2 billion over the level of the current FY 2011 CR.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUDGET PROPOSAL**

**A NOTE ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA)/NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) ACT** The President's State of the Union address noted the need to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind Act (ESEA/NCLB). The Administration has also released document, [A Blueprint for Reform](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html) (available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/blueprint/index.html>) detailing the Administration's approach to reauthorization. It proposes new accountability system focused on the goal of all students being ready to graduate or be career ready by 2020 and targeting reform at the lowest performing schools and rewarding schools that succeed in meeting that goal. While reauthorization of course necessitates separate legislative action, the budget supports the Administration's plan as it invests \$26.8 billion, an increase of 6.9%, in a "reformed" ESEA.

**TITLE 1 GRANTS TO LEAs** (as a part of a "reauthorized and strengthened" Title 1, Part A College-and-Career-Ready Students program)  
The President requests \$14.8 billion for Title 1 grants to LEAs. This amount includes \$300 million for a new \$300 million Title 1 Rewards Authority that would provide financial rewards for LEAs that reach annual performance targets, significantly increasing academic achievement for all students and closing achievement gaps.

## NEW COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS

The President's budget proposal includes \$1.4 billion for new competitions modeled on the Race to the Top competition:

- New Competitive Early Learning Challenge Fund for States (\$350 million);
- New K-12 Race to the Top program for school aimed at reform at the school district level (\$900 million); and
- New "First in the World" competition to test, validate, and scale up effective approaches to improving college access and generating better outcomes from education dollars (\$150 million).

## CONSOLIDATING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The President's budget proposes consolidating 38 K-12 programs it considers duplicative or inefficient into 11 programs and eliminating 13 discretionary programs at the U.S. Department of Education.

The President is recommending that the following discretionary programs be eliminated, for a total budget savings of \$146.8 million. (The amount shown is the program Budget Authority at the current 2011 CR level for each program.)

Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships	\$63.9
Byrd Honors Scholarships	\$42.0
College Textbook Rental Pilot Initiative	\$10.0
Exchanges with Historic Whaling and Trading Partners	\$8.8
Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success	\$6.0
Loan Repayment for Civil Legal Assistance Attorneys	\$5.0
Recreational Programs	\$2.5
Women's Educational Equity	\$2.4
Underground Railroad Program	\$1.9
Emma Byrd Scholarship Program	\$1.5
B.J. Stupak Olympic Scholarships	\$1.0
Training for Realtime Writers	\$1.0
Off-Campus Community Service	\$.8

A number of grants have been consolidated into other programs, as stated above. Some of the state grants that the President is recommending for consolidation are:

- The Improving Teacher Quality State Grants (FY 2011 CR Budget Authority \$2.9 billion) would be part of the proposed Teachers and Leaders State Grants program.
- The Charter Schools grants (FY 2011 CR Budget Authority \$256 million) would be part of the proposed Expanding Educational Opportunities authority.
- The Educational Technology State Grants (FY 2011 CR Budget Authority \$100 million) would be part of various ESEA programs, including the Effective Teaching and Leading for a Complete Education authority.

## **OTHER GRANTS**

The President is requesting \$300 million for a newly authorized ESEA program that would be modeled after the i3 (Investing in Innovation) program that was authorized by the Recovery Act. His budget would also provide \$600 million in School Turnaround Grants (currently School Improvement Grants). These funds would go to states in the form of formula grants and states would subgrant these funds to LEAs to implement the Turnaround, Restart, School Closure and Transformation model in identified schools. States would be allowed to reserve a portion of their allocations to build their capacity to improve low performing schools.

## **PELL GRANTS**

The budget provides funding to sustain Pell grants at the recently increased level of \$5,500. The Administration is preparing a Pell Grant Improvement Act that would eliminate the “year-round” Pell Grant, which provides two grants in a single award year, and create a long-term funding stream for the Pell Grant program by eliminating ineffective in-school interest subsidy for graduate students.

## **STEM EDUCATION**

The President proposes to invest \$100 million to prepare STEM teachers. This initiative includes:

- Encouraging more STEM graduates to become teachers;
- Scaling up effective programs to train at least 10,000 STEM teachers next year (\$80 million); and
- Research on how to best recruit, prepare and retain the best STEM teachers (\$20 million in the National Science Foundation budget).

## **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA) FUNDING**

The funding levels proposed in the President’s budget include a \$200 million increase for individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) state grants, an amount that maintains the current level of federal contribution to the special education at 17% of the national average per pupil expenditure. There is also a \$50 million increase for IDEA grants for infants and toddlers.

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