

May 5, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

You have likely seen the news on the White House's release of the [Fiscal Year 2026 discretionary budget request](#) (which would be used for the 2026-2027 school year). This proposed budget is the first part of a multi-step - and many months long - process to develop and finalize the federal budget. This process includes:

- The President of the United States submits a budget request to Congress.
 - *This has not yet happened.*
- The House and Senate pass budget resolutions.
- The House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees and committees markup appropriations bills.
- The House and Senate vote on bills and reconcile differences.
- The President signs appropriations bills into law.

The Council of Chief State School Officers shared the following message about the budget proposal:

In the first year of a president's term, their administration often releases what is called a "skinny" budget that is not as detailed as a traditional budget request. It is important to note that budget proposals are recommendations to Congress that require bipartisan legislation to take effect.

For FY 2026, which starts on Oct. 1 of this year, President Trump proposes significant changes to and reductions of federal grants for K-12 education. The president's budget request encourages Congress to consolidate K-12 grants into a "K-12 Simplified Funding Program" that would combine 18 competitive and formula grant programs "into a new \$2 billion formula grant designed to reduce ED's influence on schools and students and reduce bureaucracy." The budget request recommends "full funding" for ESEA Title I while reducing funds for the grant programs proposed for consolidation by \$4.535 billion. The budget request also recommends that Congress consolidate certain IDEA programs, while maintaining funding at current levels.

The administration proposes to eliminate funding for ESEA Title III grants to states for English Language Acquisition, which is currently funded at \$890 million, and the Migrant Education Program, currently funded at \$428 million. It proposes eliminating Teacher Quality Partnership grants, currently funded at \$70 million, and Equity Assistance Centers

that are funded at \$7 million. It recommends Congress reduce funding for ED's Office for Civil Rights by 35%, or \$49 million.

U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon provided a statement on the FY 2026 skinny budget release, available [here](#).

This budget request does not have the force of law, but outlines the Trump Administration's funding priorities and will serve to inform congressional deliberations about FY 2026 funding.

I recognize that we have many more questions than answers. We will be watching this process closely and advocating for ongoing funding.

Have a great week,

Susana Córdova