# **PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST:**

## Senate Labor-H Bill is a Bipartisan Win for Education Funding

The Senate Labor-HHS-Education FY26 appropriations bill is a strong, bipartisan step forward for American families. It maintains critical education funding, safeguards the timely delivery of resources to school districts, and protects the programs that parents depend on.

This bill shows what happens when leaders work together to put families first. Now, the House must act quickly to pass this bill, avoiding a government shutdown or continuing resolution that would only fuel uncertainty and chaos for schools and families.

### KEY INVESTMENTS THAT HELP KIDS THRIVE

### Stronger K-12 education

- \$18.46B for Title I-A Grants: An increase of \$50 million, reaching 80% of school districts and 25 million students
- \$15.52B for Special Education: An increase of \$50 million, serving over 7 million children with disabilities
- Funding for vulnerable students: A rejection of OMB's proposal to consolidate 18 federal programs into one "K-12" Simplified Funding Program," which would mask a \$4.5 billion cut and dilute funding for the students and programs that need it most-including at-risk and homeless youth, rural education, afterschool programming, and literacy grants.

## College Affordability and Access

- Sustained funding for Pell Grants: Maintaining the Pell Grant maximum at \$7,295, helping over 7 million students pursue higher education
- Sustained funding for SEOG, TRIO, GEAR UP, CCAMPIS, HBCUs, and MSIs: Making college accessible for historically underrepresented communities
- Sustained funding for Federal Work **Study:** Providing campus-based jobs to help students afford higher education

### Civil Rights and Research:

- \$140M for the Office of Civil Rights: Maintaining sufficient resources and staffing to continue to protect students from discrimination
- \$793M for the Institute of Education **Sciences:** Advancing research to help educators improve learning outcomes

Funding Category	FY25	Senate Bill	Delta
Education for the disadvantaged	19,107,790,000	19,157,790,000	50,000,000
School Improvement Programs	5,776,178,000	5,781,178,000	5,000,000
Innovation and Improvement	1,115,000,000	1,183,647,000	68,647,000
Safe schools and citizenship education	457,000,000	416,000,000	-41,000,000
English Language Acquisition	890,000,000	890,000,000	0
Special Education	15,467,264,000	15,517,264,000	50,000,000
Student Financial Assistance	24,615,352,000	24,615,352,000	0
Higher Education	3,080,952,000	3,267,926,000	186,974,000
Institute for Education Sciences	793,106,000	793,106,000	0
Office of Civil Rights	140,000,000	140,000,000	0

### SAFEGUARDING THE POWER OF THE PURSE

Over the past 200 days, the administration has chipped away at one of Congress's most vital responsibilities. Through contract cancellations, mass layoffs, and illegal impoundments, the administration has created budgetary chaos for districts across the country while attempting to strip the Department of Education of its ability to carry out statutory responsibilities. **These actions have directly undermined Congress's constitutional authority.** 

We urge the House to pass the Senate Labor-H Appropriations Bill to:

- Keep schools and programs funded without interruption
- Ensure grants are delivered on time and in full
- Keep Title I and IDEA in the Department of Education, where experts can ensure that highpoverty schools and students with disabilities have the resources they need
- Require the Department of Education to produce regular staffing reports to boost transparency and ensure there are sufficient FTE to carry out statutory responsibilities

### **PARENTS ARE UNITED**

There is bipartisan support for continued investments in the Department of Education, including targeted funding for students with disabilities, rural communities, and Title I. Families and schools are hurting; they are struggling deeply with the instability of budget cuts and impoundments, and they cannot endure another CR or shutdown. **Communities need resources, and it is Congress's duty to provide them without delay. Stand up and stand with families, and pass the Senate appropriations bill as it's written.** 

Responses of K-12 Parents	The US DOE should continue to do this	Unsure This should no longer be handled by the US DOE		
Supporting services for students with disabilities			72% 9%	19%
Providing funding to schools in rural areas			71% 9%	20%
Providing Title I funding to public schools serving low-income communities			70% 11%	19%
Providing funding for mental health services in schools		<u> </u>	70% 7%	23%
Investing in career and technical education programs			68% 11%	21%
Providing funding for teacher training programs			68% 9%	23%
Offering financial aid for students planning to attend college			67% 10%	23%
Enforcing civil rights laws in schools to protect students from discrimination			64% 11%	25%
Collecting and reporting national education data			64% 10%	25%
Providing funding for after-school programs			64% 10%	26%
Supporting services for students learning English			61% 12%	28%
Promoting family and parent engagement in schools			60% 10%	29%
Providing funding to public charter schools and public magnet schools			<b>54</b> % 13%	33%



Q. Here are some things that the US Department of Education (DOE) has been doing. For each of the following, please indicate if you think it is something the US DOE should continue to do, or if you think it should no longer be handled by the US DOE.

N=1,517 registered voters nationwide, with a base sample of 1,000 voters and an oversample achieving a total of 709 voters who are K-12 parents, conducted March 13–18, 2025

