

House FY27 Labor-H Bill: Parents Continue to Reject Cuts to Education Funding

The House FY27 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill proposes \$70.66 billion for the U.S. Department of Education, a reduction of \$8.14 billion below FY26 enacted levels and \$6.54 billion below even the Administration's FY27 budget request.

The bill includes several notable investments in evidence-based literacy initiatives and rejects many of the Administration's proposals to dismantle the Department of Education. However, these positive steps are offset by significant cuts to programs that support disadvantaged students, educator quality, career and technical education, higher education affordability, and education research.

SLASHING & ELIMINATING PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT VULNERABLE STUDENTS

The bill proposes **enormous 10% cuts to Title I**, eliminating nearly \$2B in funding that low-income families rely on. The bill also **eliminates funding for numerous programs that provide targeted support to students, families, and educators**, including:

- Migrant Education
- Neglected and Delinquent Education
- Arts in Education
- Gifted and Talented Education
- Promise Neighborhoods
- English Language Acquisition (Title III)
- Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II-A)
- Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants
- Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED)
- Statewide Family Engagement Centers

Many of these programs serve student populations that might otherwise be overlooked and help schools address specific local needs. At a time when schools continue to address unfinished learning while facing massive fiscal cliffs, these reductions would significantly impact services and supports for students with the greatest needs and even contribute to mass school closures across the nation.

RESCINDING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

The House bill does not simply eliminate several school improvement programs going forward; it also **rescinds approximately \$1.68 billion in previously appropriated funding from the School Improvement Programs account**, accelerating the withdrawal of federal support for educator development, English learners, family engagement, community schools, and other school improvement initiatives. Rescinding funding that Congress has already approved creates uncertainty for states, districts, and community partners that rely on federal resources to plan and implement long-term improvement efforts. At a time when schools are working to accelerate learning and navigating their own local funding uncertainties, withdrawing previously committed funding will further disrupt progress and undermine successful local initiatives.

DEEP CUTS TO EDUCATION RESEARCH, DATA, & ASSESSMENTS

The budget **eliminates all funding for state assessments**, posing a significant threat to assessment implementation and federal accountability. Under ESSA's noncompliance provisions, inadequate federal funding could trigger a situation where states are no longer expected to fully meet federal assessment requirements. This would eliminate one of the most critical tools parents and policymakers rely on to understand student achievement, identify achievement gaps, and hold schools accountable for serving all students.

The bill also **reduces funding for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) by 68%**, a cut of approximately \$536 million, including:

- A 50% reduction to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- A 29% reduction to NAEP funding
- Elimination of Regional Educational Laboratories (RELs)
- Elimination of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS)
- Elimination of Special Education Studies

These cuts would significantly weaken the nation's ability to understand student outcomes, evaluate programs, identify effective practices, and support evidence-based decision making.

CUTS TO CAREER PREPARATION & HIGHER ED ACCESS

The bill contains **several troubling cuts and eliminations to programs that help graduates achieve success in college and the workforce**, including:

- A 33% reduction in Career and Technical Education and Adult Education funding
- A 40% reduction to Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOGs)
- A 26% reduction to federal work study
- The elimination of Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) funds
- The elimination of graduate assistance programs

At the same time, we commend the bill for including **modest increases to TRIO and GEAR UP**, as well as level funding for CCAMPIS and Hawkins Centers of Excellence, which all serve to make higher education more accessible and affordable for families.

CONFLICTING MESSAGES ON LITERACY & EVIDENCE-BASED INSTRUCTION

The bill makes a **significant investment in evidence-based literacy instruction and reflects a strong commitment to the science of reading**. At a time when reading achievement remains below pre-pandemic levels and too many students struggle to read proficiently, the bill prioritizes proven strategies that help schools improve literacy outcomes, including:

- Increasing funding for Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grants by 13%
- Increasing funding for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grants by 33%
- Re-establishing the National Reading Panel, whose work in 1999 helped lay the foundation for today's science of reading movement
- Including report language supporting: High-quality instructional materials, literacy coaching and professional development aligned to the science of reading, and investments in programs with strong or moderate evidence

At the same time, the bill also **eliminates funding for comprehensive centers and regional educational laboratories (RELs)**. This decision is inconsistent with the bill's strong emphasis on literacy improvement. Many of the states frequently cited as success stories, including Mississippi, benefited from sustained technical assistance, implementation support, educator training, and research partnerships that programs like RELs and Comprehensive Centers help provide. Investing in literacy while eliminating the infrastructure that helps states implement literacy reforms will ultimately make long-term success more difficult to achieve, sustain, and scale.

UPHOLDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

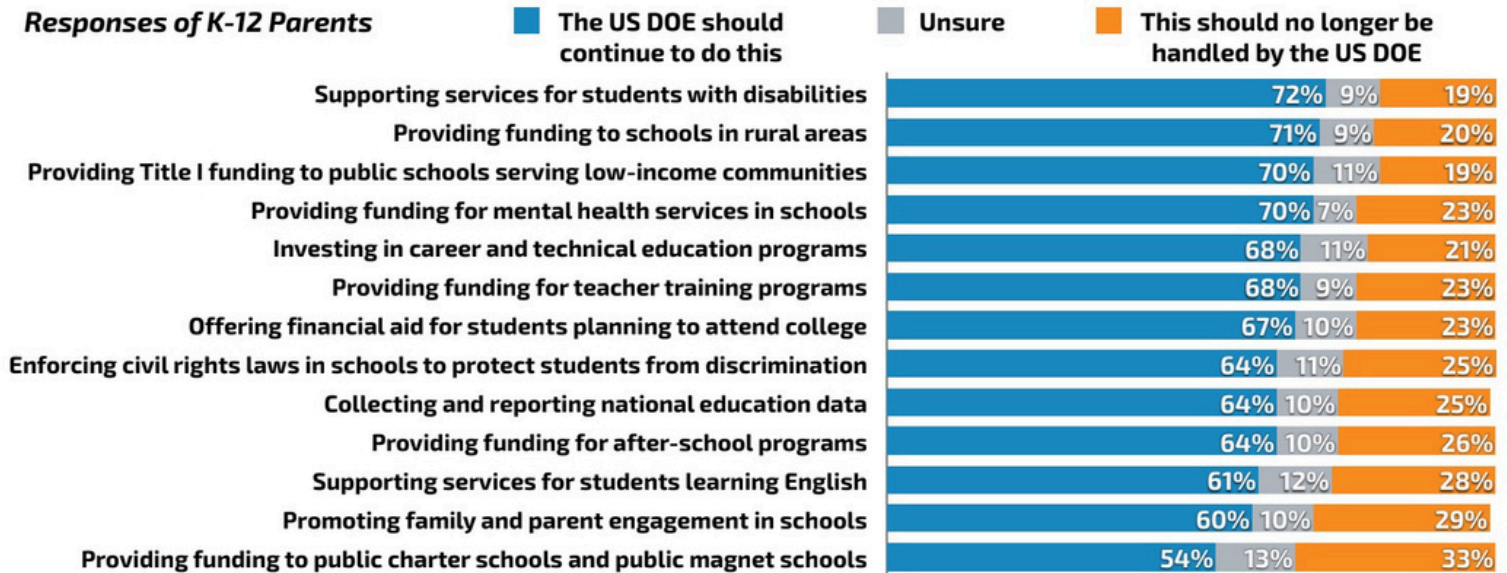
The bill **rejects several major proposals from the Administration that would have significantly weakened the federal role in education**. Notably, the legislation:

- Rejects the proposed Make Education Great Again (MEGA) block grant
- Rejects proposals to consolidate and block grant IDEA funding
- Keeps Career and Technical Education (CTE) within the Department of Education rather than transferring it to the Department of Labor
- Provides only modest reductions to departmental operations rather than codifying large-scale staffing cuts
- Level-funds the Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

These provisions help preserve federal oversight, accountability, and continuity for students, families, and state education agencies. However, **the bill can and should go a step further to explicitly prevent the implementation of existing inter-agency agreements (IAAs) or the announcement of future IAAs, as well as demand accountability and oversight for any significant staffing changes or reductions.**

PARENTS ARE CLEAR:

There is bipartisan support for continued investments in the Department of Education, including targeted funding for students with disabilities, rural communities, Title I, and mental health services.



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



THE BOTTOM LINE

The House FY27 Labor-HHS-Education bill contains meaningful investments in literacy, evidence-based instruction, school safety, and several programs that support educational opportunity. It also rejects many proposals that would have weakened the Department of Education's ability to serve students and families.

However, those gains are offset by substantial cuts to Title I, assessments, education research, educator development, English learner supports, migrant education, career preparation, and college affordability programs. As Congress continues the appropriations process, **lawmakers should work to preserve the bill's strong literacy focus while ensuring that students, families, and schools retain access to the programs and supports necessary to translate that vision into improved outcomes.**