



FY 2009 Bush Budget: Another Year of Drastic Education Program Cuts, Funding Reductions and Broken Promises

Major Failures of the President's 2009 Budget

President Bush proposes \$59.2 billion for the Department of Education, freezing the agency at the 2008 Omnibus level despite rising college costs and challenging academic requirements under the No Child Left Behind law. President Bush also eliminates 47 key educational programs, reducing the federal investment in education by more than \$3.2 billion.

Bush fails to provide promised funding for NCLB. Despite the President's call on Congress to renew No Child Left Behind, he has once again sent a budget to Congress that substantially under-funds K-12 education. In fact, the President's budget provides only \$125 million for NCLB above the 2008 Omnibus, for a total of \$24.6 billion, a cumulative shortfall of \$85.6 billion.

- ***Bush Denies 3 Million Children Full Title I Funding.***
The Bush budget provides only a 2.9% increase for Title I to help low-income children – well under the 6% inflation rate. Title I funding would reach \$14.3 million in FY 2009, substantially less than the \$25 billion promised.
- ***Bush Denies Training to 27,000 Teachers.***
The Bush budget cuts Teacher Quality State Grants by \$100 million. These dollars are intended to support high-quality professional development as a critical component of improving student achievement and closing the academic achievement gap. Insufficient funding for 27,000 teachers will adversely affect hundreds of thousands of their students.

A new voucher scheme, another misguided use of funds. The President's budget includes yet another voucher scheme – this time proposing to redirect \$300 million into a private school voucher program called "Pell Grants for Kids." Unlike the hugely successful Pell Grants for college students, this so-called "Pell Grants for Kids" voucher proposal only exacerbates inequities in education by undermining education programs that serve all students. In addition, vouchers offer no accountability and have yet to be proven to increase academic achievement.

President Bush continues to break the promise of full funding for special education.

The small 3% increase for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B State Grants in the President's budget proposal, to \$11.3 billion, provides only 17.1% of the national average per-pupil expenditure toward meeting the excess costs of educating students with disabilities – less than half of the amount promised by Congress when IDEA was enacted 33 years ago. The 2009 proposed level falls \$10.2 billion short of the FY 2009 authorized level of \$21.5 billion, stepping backwards from the federal commitment to fully fund IDEA.

In addition, despite strong bipartisan objections from Congress, the administration issued rules in December 2007 that will reduce Medicaid-based reimbursements related to services for special education students by \$3.6 billion over the next 5 years. For more than 20 years, Medicaid has helped to provide students with special health needs access to treatment in school settings. Eliminating the reimbursement mechanism will leave many children with disabilities unable to access the health care services they require to actively participate and learn in the classroom.

President Bush falls short of providing much needed increases to the Pell Grant program.

Instead of providing real funding for an increase in the maximum grant to help low-and moderate-income students to attend college, the Bush budget instead hides behind the mandatory funding provided by this Congress. Additionally, the Bush budget terminates funding for key higher education access programs including Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Perkins, and Leveraging Educational Assistance Programs (LEAP) – all programs that provide necessary financial support for students at a time of rising college costs. Additionally, the Bush budget fails to recognize the critical role that minority serving institutions play in ensuring that students enter and remain in college. Rather than increasing support for these schools the Bush budget wholly eliminates funding for Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian institutions, and slashes support for both Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

The Bush budget misses the target on competitiveness initiatives. U.S. students lag behind their peers in other developed countries in mathematics and science proficiency. Investing in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in K-12 and higher education ensures that our students are prepared to enter the 21st century workplace with the skills necessary to be competitive in the global marketplace. The President's budget fails to take advantage of Congress' support for STEM programs by freezing funding for Math and Science Partnerships, retreating on funding for Title I reading and math programs, and eliminating the Educational Technology program.

President Bush eliminates funding for the Career and Technical Education State Grants program, destroying innovative career and technical education programs for students attending high school and community college. The Bush budget eliminates \$1.1 billion in funding for vocational education state grants, cutting off a pipeline to job opportunities in emerging fields such as telecommunications and health care for millions of students.

President Bush freezes critical literacy services, providing services to only 3% of eligible recipients. President Bush freezes funding for adult basic education, failing to expand services to more than 90 million adults who have literacy levels that make it difficult for them to gain and hold employment or help their children with their school work. Adult education services already have long waiting lists and budgets that only allow them to serve 3% of adults with basic or below basic literacy skills.

The President's budget terminates a total of 47 critical education programs, reducing the federal investment in education by more than \$3.2 billion. These programs help disadvantaged children prepare for and attend college and assist schools in meeting the challenges of NCLB. Among the programs terminated, the six largest include:

- ✓ *Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants* – (-\$757 million) provides an additional source of aid for exceptionally needy college students.
- ✓ *Educational Technology State Grants* – (-\$267 million) provides critical funding to close the digital divide, integrate technology into education, and improve innovation and academic achievement in our schools.
- ✓ *Tech Prep Education State Grants* – (-\$103 million) are designed to enhance and expand traditional career technical education by requiring a linkage between secondary and post-secondary programs.
- ✓ *Leveraging Educational Assistance Programs* – (-\$64 million) provides grants to states to assist them in providing need-based grants and community service work-study assistance to eligible postsecondary students.
- ✓ *Smaller Learning Communities* – (-\$80 million) provides resources to reduce school size, especially in high schools.
- ✓ *Even Start* – (-\$66 million) provides funding to support family literacy programs – improving the literacy skills of both children and their parents.

The Bush budget slashes funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and proposes to convert this successful program into a risky voucher program.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is the main federal funding for critical before- and after-school programs that provide supervised and structured activities for students. The FY 2009 Bush budget includes \$800 million for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a \$281 million (26%) reduction below the 2008 Omnibus. The President's budget would force hundreds of thousands of children out of successful community-based programs that provide them and their parents with the assurance of safe, enriching activities in the hours when children are most vulnerable, and undermine the many public-private-community partnerships that support these programs.

The Bush budget jeopardizes school safety efforts – slashes funding for school violence and drug prevention.

The FY 2009 Bush budget provides a total of \$282 million for Safe Schools and Citizenship Education, a 45% reduction below the 2008 Omnibus. In addition, the President's budget completely eliminates funding for the national Safe and Drug Free Schools Alcohol Abuse Reduction program and Mentoring program. Safe learning environments are critical to student achievement. The loss of these resources severely undermines the work of schools and communities in reducing violence and drug use.

President Bush Misses Key Opportunity for Supporting Early Education...Again. Child development experts, neuroscientists, economists, and business leaders all agree that greater funding for high quality early education is one of the best investments this country can make in its future. Yet, the President continues his eight-year trend of short-changing America's youngest children by failing to expand early learning opportunities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities, failing to fund a program that supports early childhood teacher quality, cutting child care funding for an additional 100,000 families, and undermining Head Start quality by providing inadequate funding for the seventh straight year.