



Kirk Miller <samkm@sammt.org>

AASA Budget Response

1 message

CJ Reid <creid@aasa.org>
To: samkm@sammt.org

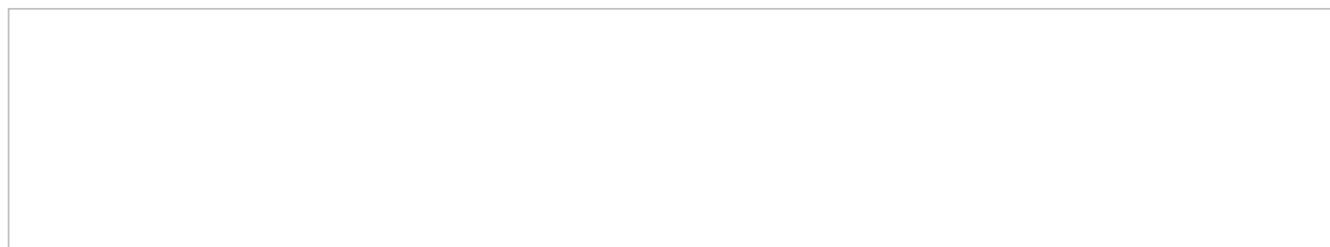
Wed, Mar 13, 2019 at 9:44 AM

[Please click here to view this email in your web browser.](#)



1615 Duke Street | Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.528.0700 | Fax: 703.841.1543
www.aasa.org

AASA Response to FY20 Budget Proposal: On Monday, President Trump released his FY20 budget proposal (dollars for the 20-21 school year). The budget is dead on arrival and a non-starter with Capitol Hill, but we are diligent in monitoring proposals to be aware of what we are dealing with. The AASA analysis is attached, and here is a [good report](#) detailing state by state impact of some of the programs proposed for elimination, including ESSA Title II and Title IV. Direct all questions to Noelle Ellerson Ng (nellerson@aasa.org).



TO: AASA Members
FROM: Noelle Ellerson Ng, Associate Executive Director
DATE: March 11, 2019
RE: AASA Response to President Trump's Proposed FY20 Budget

AASA maintains that a budget, whether that of our organization or the schools that AASA members lead, reflects our mission and priorities: we fund what we support, and we support what we fund. To that end, President Trump's proposed FY20 budget continues his trend of introducing federal budget proposals that fall short of the simple willingness and ability to prioritize support for strengthening and supporting our nation's public schools and the students they serve.

OVERVIEW: The president's FY20 budget proposal continues his administration's prioritization of privatization, at the direct expense of the nation's public schools and the 50 million students they serve every day. The FY20 US Education Department (USED) budget proposal is organized around six major initiatives:

- Increase access to school choice
- Support high-need students through essential formula grant programs
- Protect students by promoting safe and secure schools
- Elevate the teaching profession through innovation
- Promote workforce development for the 21st century
- Streamline and improve post-secondary aid programs

Overall, the proposal seeks one of the largest-ever cuts to domestic discretionary spending. The proposal cuts non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding from its current level of \$597 billion to the FY2020 funding cap of \$543 billion (a cut of \$54 billion, or 9%). The proposal preserves funding for defense discretionary funding. More specific to education, the FY20 budget proposal for USED provides \$64 billion for the federal fiscal year starting October. This is a cut of \$7.1 billion (or 10 percent) compared to USED's final FY19 allocation. The proposal eliminates 29 programs, totaling \$6.7 billion, with a significant portion of those cuts targeting programs that support educators, school leaders, literacy and college affordability. The budget proposal uses these cuts to pay for a new federal tuition tax credit (voucher), funded at \$5 billion in FY20 and at \$50 billion total over ten years, as well as increases for

the DC Opportunity Scholarship voucher. At the 30,000 foot level, the AASA response to the proposed FY20 budget is a reiteration of our commitment to equity in education, to the idea that all students deserve a robust high-quality education, and to the belief that our nation's public schools are best positioned to achieve this unparalleled national priority. We subscribe to the idea that 'When our students succeed, our nation succeeds' and as such, believe that federal investment is critical to helping to level the playing field for our nation's neediest students. The limited federal dollars, though a small share of overall education funding, yield a mighty impact when purposefully invested.

AASA outright opposes the president's FY20 budget proposal, for myriad reasons: for its flawed premise; for its failure to resolve the funding pressures of sequester; for its continued prioritization of privatization; for missing the opportunity to introduce a budget document that is not dead on arrival with Congress; for its blunt cuts to non-defense discretionary funding; and for its disregard for parity between defense and non-defense discretionary funding, among others. AASA welcomes the opportunity to work with Congress to complete a timely, bipartisan, bicameral FY20 budget that raises the federal funding caps, uses FY19 as the base funding level, and supports and strengthens public education.

KEY AASA PROGRAMS: Among all of the USED programs, whether slated for an increase, a cut, or elimination, a handful stick out as AASA priorities. Our response and analysis are below:

Programs for Disadvantaged Students: AASA remains committed to prioritizing investment in our nation's public schools and ensuring that limited targeted dollars are driven via formula and targeted in an equitable manner to better serve our neediest students. As such, we remain staunchly opposed to the continued prioritization of privatization, opposed to the continued level/underfunding for IDEA and ESSA Title I, and encourage Congress to reject these poor funding priorities.

- *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):* AASA's top federal policy priority is full funding of IDEA, where Congress would realize its commitment to provide 40% of the costs associated with educating students with special needs. The president level funds IDEA, a budget proposal that commits to continued encroachment on state and local dollars to cover the federal shortfall. Even without adjusting for inflation, the proposed funding level for IDEA in FY20 falls short of 15% of the full cost, not even half of the Congressional commitment. To date, the closest Congress has come to this goal through the annual appropriations process was 18% in 2005, and the proposed level for FY20 is below that, in the high 14% range (final calculation forthcoming). AASA urges Congress to reject the proposed level funding and to get serious about meeting its longstanding federal commitment.
- *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title I:* While Title I is level funded, we remain committed to advocating for increased funding for the cornerstone program for the premier federal K12 education bill and express our deep disappointment with a failure to adequately invest in the program, especially when there are new dollars proposed for school choice and privatization. AASA urges Congress to reject the proposed level funding and prioritize investment in Title I above final FY19 levels.

Programs Supporting Teaching in Public Schools, Including Well-Rounded Education and After School Programming: The success of our nation rests with the success of our students, which is facilitated and grown by our nation's teachers. As such, AASA is opposed to the budget's deep cuts to K12 programs that support teaching in public schools.

- *ESSA Title II:* This program supports effective instruction state grants and class size reduction. AASA is opposed to the elimination of the program.
- *21st Century Learning Centers:* This supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children. AASA opposes its proposed elimination.
- *ESSA Title IV:* First authorized as a flexible block grant program under ESSA, the program authorizes activities in three broad, critical areas: well-rounded education, supporting safe/healthy students, and education technology. The program was first funded in FY17, meaning it is in its first year of implementation. AASA is opposed to the proposed elimination of the program, given both the programs newness and overwhelmingly bipartisan support when authorized by Congress.
- *Teacher and School Leader Programs:* As programs designed to improve pay structures, reward effective teachers and principals, provide greater professional opportunities to educators in high poverty schools, and support effective educator development, these programs play a critical role in supporting individuals and educators interested in advancing an education career. Given the important role of teachers in our schools and the increasingly severe nature of the nation's teacher shortage crisis, AASA is opposed to elimination of these programs and instead encourages USED and the Congress to work on federal policies that acknowledge and support the important work of teachers and the important need of ensuring that all students have access to highly effective educators. (Teacher/school leader incentive grants; supporting effective educator development; school leader recruitment and support; and teacher quality partnerships)
- *Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants:* Designed to create a comprehensive literacy program to advance literacy skills — including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing — for students from birth through grade 12, this

program helps build a foundation of literacy skills that students rely upon throughout their educational career. AASA opposes the elimination.

Programs Supporting Career and Technical Education

- *Perkins Career and Technical Education Program*: Perkins plays a critical role in providing students with training and learning in the K12 setting that prepares them for post-K12 educational opportunity and work. CTE and the Perkins program can play a leading role in the president's job creation agenda, and AASA applauds the proposed nominal increase of \$20 million to improve program quality and effectiveness. AASA supports additional funding, but acknowledges that the nominal increase comes amidst deep, draconian cuts to the overall USED budget.

Programs Supporting Rural Education:

- *Rural Education Achievement Program*: As the only program dedicated to supporting rural schools within ESSA, REAP helps rural school districts carry out activities to improve the quality of teaching and learning in their schools. In an otherwise pretty dismal FY20 budget, the reality is that level funding of a program is a win. AASA appreciates the administration's willingness to protect and preserve REAP.
- *Impact Aid*: The overall proposal for FY20 includes the elimination of the Impact Aid payment for federal property funding. This repeats the proposal from FY18 and FY19. AASA is a strong supporter of the Impact Aid program and remains vehemently opposed to any effort to eliminate Impact Aid or to convert it to a voucher program.
- *Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Communities (Forest Counties) Program*: The SRS program provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. SRS expired at the end of FY 2015 and the proposed budget eliminates funding for the program. The continued expiration will create dramatic budgetary shortfalls if Congress fails to renew this longstanding federal obligation to county governments. AASA is opposed to the proposed zero funding for SRS.

Programs Related to Post Secondary Education

- *Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs*: AASA opposes elimination of the GEAR UP Program and supports its continued authorization and funding as critical to helping our nation's student get to and through higher education.
- *TRIO*: The proposal combines GEAR UP into TRIO and cuts the funding by \$470 million (33 percent). AASA supports preservation of TRIO as a standalone program, with independent funding.

Programs Supporting the Total Child: AASA remains committed to the idea that a child is more than a test score. Through AASA's [Total Child](#) campaign, we work to support school system leaders in their efforts to ensure all children have support for all their needs so that schools can have a real chance of helping every student master required education concepts and skills. As written on the campaign's landing page, "Focusing federal dollars where they are needed most — on schools serving children of poverty — significantly increases the chances that those dollars will help to close the achievement gap", and this is a simple metric that the proposed FY20 budget proposal fails to attain.

- *Medicaid*: In 2017, AASA led a national effort to oppose policy changes that would result in funding cuts to Medicaid, given its significant and critical role in helping schools prepare children—particularly those with disabilities—to be ready for school. Our report, [Cutting Medicaid: A Prescription to Hurt the Neediest Kids](#) detailed the important role of Medicaid services and reimbursement in both helping schools prepare children for schools and to comply with federal law. Our most recent report, [Structural Inefficiencies in the School-Based Medicaid Program Disadvantage Small and Rural Districts and Students](#), found the complex administrative and paperwork requirements necessary to obtain Medicaid reimbursement significantly hindered district participation in the program. Given our successes in preserving Medicaid in schools in light of the 2017 push, the clear path forward for making the program more efficient for schools, AASA is opposed to the president's proposal to convert the Medicaid program to a block-grant program, a move that would essentially zero out federal funding for school reimbursement. We are opposed to the president's willingness to double down on a previously-defeated policy that would jeopardize healthcare access for children in school and undermine the special education services they receive
- *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*: SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and plays an important complementary role to the school nutrition program in working to address child hunger. The FY20 budget proposal would cut SNAP (currently estimated to cost \$64 billion in 2020) by \$17.4 billion in FY20 and nearly \$220 billion over ten years. AASA is opposed to the slated cuts and other programmatic restructuring, as it results in more students coming to school hungry.

FY20 Budget Proposal Resources

- The President's FY20 budget proposal can be accessed [here](#).
- The USED budget materials are online [here](#). ([Press Release](#), FY20 [Education Summary](#))

Thank you to Committee for Education Funding, the Children's Budget Coalition, Education Week/Politics K12 and Politico for great budget day coverage, analysis, and reporting.

FY20 Budget Chart (select programs)

Dollars listed in Billions

| Program Name | 2019 Final Level | 2020 Budget Request | Change +/- 2019 | % Change vs 2019 |
|---|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| ESSA Title I | 15.86 | 15.86 | 0 | 0 |
| Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants | 0.19 | 0 | -0.19 | -100% |
| Innovative Approaches to Literacy | 0.027 | 0 | -0.027 | -100% |
| Migrant Education | 0.375 | 0.375 | 0 | 0 |
| Neglected/Delinquent | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0 | 0 |
| Impact Aid | 1.446 | 1.372 | -0.074 | -5.10% |
| ESSA Title II | 2.056 | 0 | -2.056 | -100% |
| 21st Century Learning Community Learning Centers | 1.222 | 0 | -1.222 | -100% |
| State Assessment | 378 | 0.378 | 0 | 0 |
| Education for Homeless Children | 0.094 | 0.094 | 0 | 0 |
| Native Hawaiian Education | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0 | 0 |
| Alaska Native Education | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0 | 0 |
| Rural Education | 0.181 | 0.181 | 0 | 0 |
| Comprehensive Centers | 0.052 | 0 | -0.052 | -100% |
| ESSA Title IV | 1.17 | 0 | -1.17 | -100% |
| School Safety National Activities | 0.095 | 0.2 | 0.105 | 110.50% |
| Promise Neighborhoods | 0.078 | 0.078 | 0 | 0 |
| Full Service Community Schools | 0.018 | 0 | -0.018 | -100% |
| Education Innovation and Research | 0.13 | 0.3 | 0.17 | 130.80% |
| Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 |
| Supporting Effective Educator Development | 0.075 | 0 | -0.075 | -100% |
| Charter School Grants | 0.44 | 0.5 | 0.06 | 13.60% |
| Magnet Schools Assistance | 0.107 | 0.107 | 0 | 0 |
| English Language Acquisition | 0.737 | 0.737 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Education Grants to States | 12.364 | 12.364 | 0 | 0 |
| Perkins Career & Technical Education (State grants) | 1.263 | 1.263 | 0 | 0 |
| Perkins Career & Technical Education (Natl Prog) | 0.007 | 0.02 | 0.013 | 169.50% |
| Outside of USED | | | | |
| Head Start (incl Early Head Start) | 10.063 | 10.063 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|---|---|
| Child Care Development Block Grant | 5.276 | 5.276 | 0 | 0 |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|---|---|

Eliminated Programs (*lists budget authority in millions*)

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (\$1,221.7)
- Alaska Native Education (35.5)
- American History and Civics Education (4.8)
- Arts in Education (29.0)
- Comprehensive Centers (52.0)
- Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants (190.0)
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (840.0)
- Full Service Community Schools (17.5)
- Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (5.0)
- Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (360.0)
- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (23.0)
- Impact Aid Payments for Federal Property (74.3)
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy (27.0)
- International Education and Foreign Language Studies Domestic Program (65.1)
- International Education and Foreign Language Studies Overseas Programs (7.1)
- Javits Gifted and Talented Education (12.0)
- Native Hawaiian Education (36.4)
- Promise Neighborhoods (78.3)
- Ready to Learn Programming (27.7)
- Regional Education Laboratories (55.4)
- Special Olympics Education Programs (17.6)
- Statewide Family Engagement Centers (10.0)
- Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (32.3)
- Strengthening Institutions (99.9)
- Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants *ESSA Title IV* (1,170.0)
- Supported Employment State Grants (22.5)
- Supporting Effective Educator Development (75.0)
- Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (2,055.8)
 - Teacher Quality Partnership (43.1)

TOTAL: \$6,688.0

Questions?

Contact Noelle Ellerson Ng (nellerson@aasa.org)

ABOUT THIS MESSAGE

To update your e-mail address or other contact information, please call 703-875-0748, e-mail membership@aasa.org, fax 703-841-1543, or log on to the [AASA membership website](#). [Unsubscribe Now](#). Please allow up to five business days to process your change request. Copyright AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

1615 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314