

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Overview

The 2011 request for Department of Education supports a comprehensive plan for reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The request aligns Federal education resources with key priorities and principles that are guiding the development of the Administration's ESEA reauthorization proposal.

The overall request would provide significant new resources for the reauthorized ESEA, including a \$3 billion increase for the key priorities discussed in more detail below. If Congress successfully completes a fundamental overhaul of the ESEA, the Administration would request up to an additional \$1 billion for ESEA programs. The potential total of \$4 billion in new discretionary funding would be the largest increase ever requested for ESEA programs.

A key priority in the Administration's ESEA plan is an emphasis on positive incentives and rewards for success. Therefore, the request includes \$1.35 billion in new funding for the Race to the Top program, which has already motivated States to reform their laws and make new plans to better support educational improvement and innovation. The reauthorized program would authorize both State and district-level Race to the Top awards.

The \$14.5 billion request for the reauthorized Title I, Part A, College- and Career-Ready Students program (currently Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies) would drive another key priority: graduating every student college- and career-ready (CCR). States would be asked to adopt standards that build toward college- and career-readiness and implement high-quality assessments that are aligned with these CCR standards and that measure individual student growth toward these standards. The request would also provide \$450 million for a reauthorized Assessing Achievement program (currently State Assessments) to support implementation of new assessments. States would measure school and local educational agency (LEA) performance on the basis of progress in getting all students on track to CCR, closing achievement gaps, improvement in graduation rates (for high schools), and other measures as appropriate. States would use this information to differentiate schools and LEAs, including recognition and rewards for those showing progress and required interventions for the lowest-performing schools and LEAs.

The request includes \$900 million for a reauthorized School Turnaround Grants (currently School Improvement Grants) program that would help LEAs implement rigorous school intervention models in their lowest-performing schools. Other elements of the President's Budget that would support the goal of graduating every student college- and career-ready include \$450 million to support the Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy and \$300 million to support Effective Teaching and Learning: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), to improve instruction aligned with new higher standards, \$3.9 billion for the Excellent Instructional Teams Initiative, to improve the effectiveness of teachers and leaders in preparing students to be college- and career-ready; \$210 million for Promise Neighborhoods, which would fund comprehensive health, education, and social services for children in distressed communities from birth through college and career; and other programs throughout the proposal.

At the heart of the effort to graduate all students college- and career-ready is putting more effective teachers and leaders in every school. Longstanding achievement gaps closely track the talent gap found in classrooms and schools attended by poor and minority students, and

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

fragmented and unfocused ESEA programs have failed to make significant progress to close this gap. The new programs supported by the 2011 request would ask States and LEAs to set clear standards for effective teaching and design evaluation systems that fairly and rigorously differentiate between teachers on the basis of effectiveness. The 2011 request supports a restructuring of the ESEA to better recruit, train, reward, and retain effective teachers and school leaders, including \$950 million for a new Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund, built on the strengths of the current Teacher Incentive Fund, to support State and district efforts to reform their human capital systems, and \$405 million for Teacher and Leader Pathways. The request also provides a total of \$1 billion for new Effective Teaching and Learning authorities that would make competitive awards focused on high-need LEAs to improve instruction in the areas of literacy, STEM, and other subjects.

In addition to continuing to focus Federal education resources on students from low-income families through the Title I, Part A College- and Career-Ready Students program, the Administration’s ESEA reauthorization plan would retain longstanding programs and authorities designed to meet the needs of special populations, including English learners, migrant students, neglected and delinquent students, Native Americans, and homeless children and youth.

The Administration’s ESEA reauthorization plan reflects a fundamental rethinking of the appropriate Federal role in elementary and secondary education. The plan includes a restructuring of ESEA program authorities to reduce the number of programs administered by the Department of Education, increase the role of competition in awarding Federal education funds, focus more closely on desired program outcomes, and expand State and local flexibility to achieve those outcomes. For example, the reauthorization proposal would create 11 new programs, 9 of which would consolidate 38 existing authorities. These new programs would emphasize using competition to allocate funds, giving communities more choices in implementing activities, and using rigorous evidence to fund what works. With this new emphasis on competition, safeguards will be put in place to ensure that geographic location does not dictate results. In particular, programs will be structured to ensure that rural communities have a fair chance to successfully compete.

The following table shows the programs that would be consolidated under the Administration’s 2011 request:

<i>ESEA REAUTHORIZATION CONSOLIDATION CROSSWALK</i>	
New Authority	Consolidated Programs
Effective Teachers and Leaders	Ready to Teach Improving Teacher Quality State Grants
Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund	Advanced Credentialing Teacher Incentive Fund

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Teacher and Leader Pathways		School Leadership Teach for America Teacher Quality Partnership Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow Transition to Teaching
Effective Teaching and Learning for a Complete Education	Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy	Even Start Literacy through School Libraries National Writing Project Reading is Fundamental Ready-to-Learn Television Striving Readers
	Effective Teaching and Learning: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	Mathematics and Science Partnerships
	Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education	Teaching American History Academies for American History and Civics Civic Education Close-Up Fellowships Excellence in Economic Education Foreign Language Assistance Arts in Education
		Educational Technology State Grants <i>(Note: Each program would include a focus on educational technology.)</i>
College Pathways and Accelerated Learning		Advanced Placement High School Graduation Initiative Javits Gifted and Talented Education
Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students		Alcohol Abuse Reduction Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Foundations for Learning Mental Health Integration in Schools Physical Education Program Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Activities

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Expanding Educational Options	Charter Schools Grants Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Parental Information and Resource Centers Smaller Learning Communities Voluntary Public School Choice
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ESEA Contingent Reserve

Subsequent to enactment of ESEA reauthorization, the Administration expects to send up a budget amendment to ensure that the 2011 budget request for ESEA activities is fully aligned with the authorizations contained in the enacted bill. In addition, contingent on Congress successfully completing a fundamental overhaul of the Act that includes the President's proposed reforms, the Administration would use the budget amendment to request up to \$1 billion in additional funding for certain ESEA programs on top of the increases in the 2011 budget request for the Department of Education. This additional funding would be for ESEA programs such as the Title I, Part A College- and Career-Ready Students program to support rewards for highly effective LEAs and schools, Assessing Achievement to hasten State adoption of CCR standards and assessments, and a reformed 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.

Delay of ESEA Reauthorization

If ESEA is not reauthorized prior to the 2011 appropriation, the Administration strongly believes the current programs and activities best positioned to reform K-12 education should receive additional funding, including the following:

Program	2010 Enacted	Request	Increase
Race to the Top	0	\$1.35 billion	\$1.35 billion
Investing in Innovation (i3)	0	\$500.0 million	\$500.0 million
School Improvement Grants	\$545.6 million	\$900.0 million	\$354.4 million
Teacher Incentive Fund	\$400.0 million	\$800.0 million	\$400.0 million
Teacher Recruitment	0	\$50.0 million	\$50.0 million
School Leadership	\$29.2 million	\$79.2 million	\$50.0 million
Charter Schools	\$256.0 million	\$310.0 million	\$54.0 million
Promise Neighborhoods	\$10.0 million	\$210.0 million	\$200.0 million

In particular, the increases shown above for Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, School Improvement Grants, and the Teacher Incentive Fund would build on the unprecedented investment made by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided nearly \$7.9 billion for these four programs. Additional information on the proposed increases if the ESEA is not reauthorized may be found in the congressional justifications for these programs.