

SUPPORTING ENGLISH LEARNERS

English Learners (ELs) are the fastest-growing major student population in the United States, and America's long-term prosperity is linked to whether these students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge they need for college and careers. ELs face the dual challenges of learning English and learning academic content at the same time. Results from the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress show that those competing challenges lead to performance levels far below those of their English-proficient peers in mathematics, reading, and science. Moreover, the areas of the country with the greatest increases in the number of ELs are often those that have less experience serving these students, and we must ensure that these States, districts, and schools are able to meet the needs of ELs.

The President's 2014 budget addresses the needs of ELs through a number of different programs, providing significant investments in their education and funding the implementation of key reforms.

- **Dedicated funding for English Learner Education (\$732 million).** The Administration is maintaining its commitment to supporting States and districts in operating high-quality language instruction educational programs by continuing to provide significant formula funding to all States for English Learner Education. This request would also provide grants for the preparation and training of teachers of ELs, and would fund evaluation activities and a clearinghouse for the dissemination of research-based information on effective methods, programs, and strategies for ELs.
- **Promise Neighborhoods program (\$300 million).** This program supports projects that significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth by providing a cradle-to-career continuum of ambitious, rigorous, and comprehensive education reforms, effective community services, and strong systems of family and community support – with high-quality schools at the center. Grantees will plan and implement these projects for all children and youth in the community, including ELs and their families, and many of the current grantees serve communities with high percentages of ELs. Of the 22 current grantees, eleven are working with schools where more than 25 percent of students are ELs, and another grantee is in a community where more than 40 percent of the residents speak a language other than English at home.
- **English Literacy/Civics Education State Grants (\$75 million).** These Adult Education grants support projects that provide and increase access to English literacy programs that incorporate civics education. Classes introduce students to civics-related content and provide them with opportunities to apply that knowledge in their daily lives while building their English language and literacy skills. Services address the needs of immigrant and other limited English proficient adults, including high-skilled immigrants with degrees and credentials in their native countries.

- **Strengthening English Learner Education through the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).** The President's ESEA proposal would strengthen this program by requiring States to implement valid and reliable assessments of English language proficiency, consistently identify ELs, and evaluate the effectiveness of programs for ELs. It would also provide new competitive grants to support innovative effective or promising practices, including dual-language programs that promote literacy in both English and students' home languages.