

Ensuring All Students Have the Education Opportunities Needed to Succeed

America's schools play an important role in meeting the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student population and ensuring that all students get a fair shot at the American dream. A child's zip code should never determine their destiny, but today, the neighborhoods children grow up in impact their odds of graduating high school and lifetime economic opportunities. As a country, we cannot let the potential of these students go to waste. Our future economic prosperity is tied to the success of all students.

President Obama has laid out ambitious new plans to ensure that there are ladders of opportunity that will give millions of hard working Americans in high-poverty communities a leg up into the middle class. Education plays an important role in those plans. The President's budget includes the following education investments that support the ladders of opportunity agenda:

- **Preschool for All (\$75 billion).** This investment would support grants to States for the implementation of high-quality preschool programs that are aligned with elementary and secondary education systems. The Department would partner with States to provide universal access to high-quality preschool for children from low- and moderate-income families.
- **Promise Neighborhoods (\$300 million).** This request would greatly expand the program and increase the number of projects that significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth by providing a birth-to-career continuum of rigorous and comprehensive education reforms, effective community services, and strong systems of family and community support – with high quality schools at the center.
- **High School Redesign (\$300 million).** This new high school competition would fund district partnerships with (i) postsecondary institutions and (ii) business, industry, non-profits or community-based organizations to redesign high schools. Redesigned high schools would ensure that students graduate from high school with college credit and career-related experience, putting them on a path to career and college success. Special consideration would be given to partnerships that focus on areas with limited access to quality career and college opportunities, such as high poverty and rural districts, as well as to partnerships with employers that can provide students with career-related experience or career-related credentials.
- **The Creation of Promise Zones.** The Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Agriculture are working together to ensure that federal programs and resources are focused intensely on communities with high concentrations of poverty. Targeted investments in areas designated

as “Promise Zones” would transform high-poverty communities into places of opportunity that can attract private investment, improve education, and create jobs. Tax incentives would be used to help stimulate growth and investments in Promise Zones, and technical assistance to local leaders would help them navigate federal programs, cut red tape, and use federal resources more effectively.

The Department’s FY 2014 budget request provides additional investments that align and support the President’s ladders of opportunity plan and ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed in college and careers. Key investments include:

- **College- and Career-Ready Students program (\$14.5 billion).** The request would continue the Administration’s significant support for schools with high percentages of low-income students through the College- and Career-Ready Students program (Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies under current law). This program would strengthen school, district, and State accountability by continuing to require disaggregated reporting of achievement data for all subgroups of students, asking States to implement meaningful interventions in schools with the largest achievement gaps, and measuring student growth as well as achievement.
- **IDEA Part B Grants to States (\$11.6 billion).** These formula grants support States and districts in providing special education and related services to students with disabilities. The grants are critical to the efforts of states and districts to provide the more than 6.5 million students with disabilities ages 3 through 21 served by Part B a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that meets their unique needs. By maintaining significant support for Part B, the Administration is helping to ensure that students with disabilities can participate in the general education curriculum to the maximum extent possible and are prepared for college and careers.
- **Migrant Education State Grants (\$393 million).** This program would continue to help address the educational needs of approximately 223,000 children of migrant agricultural workers during the regular school year and summer session, allowing them to complete high school or a GED program and obtain employment. The Department also uses a portion of the funding to improve inter- and intra-State coordination of migrant education activities, including State exchange of migrant student data records through the Migrant Student Record Exchange System.
- **Helping Migrant Students Complete High School and College (\$36 million).** This request would support approximately 45 High School Equivalency Program (HEP) projects and 40 College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) projects, as well as outreach, technical assistance and professional development activities. HEP projects help low-income migrant and seasonal farm workers gain high school diplomas or equivalency certificates, and CAMP

makes grants to provide stipends and special services, such as tutoring and counseling, to migrant students who are in their first year of college.

- **Neglected and Delinquent State Grants (\$50 million).** This program would continue to support education services for neglected and delinquent children and youth in local and State-run institutions, community day programs, and correctional facilities. These services would help an estimated 107,000 neglected and delinquent students return to and complete high school or a GED program and obtain employment.
- **Homeless Children and Youth Education (\$65 million).** This program provides formula grants to States, which subgrant most funds to local educational agencies for services that help homeless children enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. In addition to ensuring homeless children and youth have access to academic instruction, the program increases access for these children to preschool programs, special education, and gifted and talented programs. The Administration's reauthorization proposal would improve the funding formula to better reflect shifts in State counts of homeless students and target funds to where they are needed most.
- **Disconnected Youth (\$10 million).** This program would support youth who are neither employed nor enrolled in an educational institution or who are at high-risk of dropping out of high school. In implementing the program, the Department would work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor to increase awareness and coordination at the state, local and federal levels. A portion of these funds would be used to invest in innovative re-engagement strategies and comprehensive approaches to prepare this population for college and career success. The budget request also includes \$5 million for a new youth data pilot that would enhance communities' tracking of and performance on multiple outcomes for at-risk youth using existing data sets.
- **College Pathways and Accelerated Learning for low-income students (\$102 million).** This new program would provide grants to school districts and other entities to provide college-level and other accelerated courses and instruction in middle and high schools with high concentrations of students from low-income families. Although students who drop out, or are at risk of doing so, are often thought of as low achievers who need a watered-down curriculum, educators find that often the opposite is the case. This program would improve the education of students who might otherwise drop out because they are bored with and not challenged by the standard curriculum.
- **School Turnaround Grants (\$659 million).** Funds will continue to support subgrants from States to districts to help low-performing schools implement rigorous interventions that bring about dramatic improvements in student achievement and school performance. The President's 2014 budget request increases funding for the program by \$125 million. These

additional funds would be used to strengthen the capacity of school districts to reform low-performing schools. Part of these funds could also be used to expand the School Turnaround AmeriCorps Program, which places AmeriCorps members in low-performing schools to support their school turnaround efforts. Over 92% of the more than 1,200 subgrants awarded by States in fiscal year 2009 were provided to medium to high poverty schools. In fiscal year 2010, medium to high poverty schools received more than 85% of the grants.

- **GEAR UP and TRIO (\$1.1 billion).** GEAR UP and TRIO provide intensive services to students in middle school through college. GEAR UP, which serves students beginning in the middle grades, provides early college preparation and awareness activities to entire cohorts of students at individual schools that help them set on a path to higher education. The TRIO programs, which include Upward Bound and Talent Search, provide intensive support, including summer learning opportunities, for students in high school to help more low-income, first generation college students access and succeed in higher education.