

**Department of Education**  
**IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request**

**CONTENTS**

	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Appropriation, Adjustments, and Transfers .....	A-1
Authorizing Legislation .....	A-2
Activity:	
Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant.....	A-3
State Table*	

State tables reflecting final 2019 allocations and 2020 and 2021 estimates are posted on the Department's webpage at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/index.html>



**IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Appropriation, Adjustments, and Transfers**  
(dollars in thousands)

Appropriation/Adjustments/Transfers	2019	2020	2021
<b>Discretionary:</b>			
Appropriation .....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$19,363,430</u>
Total, discretionary appropriation.....	0	0	19,363,430
<b>Advance:</b>			
Advance for succeeding fiscal year .....	0	0	-12,522,618
Advance from prior year .....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total, budget authority .....	0	0	6,840,812

**IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

**Authorizing Legislation**  
(dollars in thousands)

Activity	2020 Authorized	2020 Estimate	2021 Authorized	2021 Request
Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant ( <i>Proposed legislation</i> )...	0	0	To be determined	\$19,363,430

## IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

---

### **Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant**

(Proposed legislation)

(dollars in thousands)

FY 2021 Authorization: To be determined

Budget Authority:

	<u>2020 Appropriation</u>	<u>2021 Request</u>	<u>Change from 2020 to 2021</u>
Annual appropriation	0	\$6,840,812	+\$6,840,812
Advance for succeeding fiscal year	<u>0</u>	<u>12,522,618</u>	<u>+12,522,618</u>
Total	0	19,363,430	+19,363,430

---

### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Elementary and Secondary Education for the Disadvantaged Block Grant (ESED Block Grant) would consolidate nearly all currently funded formula and competitive grant programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as well as several related programs, into a single State and local formula grant program. In return for meeting key ESEA transparency and accountability provisions, States and school districts would have flexibility to use ESED Block Grant funds for any authorized purpose of the programs consolidated into the block grant. This would include all activities authorized under Title I, Title II-A (Supporting Effective Instruction), Title III-A (English Language Acquisition), and Title IV-A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment).

States would continue to meet key ESEA accountability and reporting requirements aimed at protecting students, supporting meaningful school improvement efforts, and giving parents the information they need to support a high-quality education for their children. More specifically, under the ESED Block Grant, States would continue to submit accountability plans that would set statewide performance goals and targets, identify and address achievement and attainment gaps for all ESEA subgroups, ensure continued reporting on achievement and other key metrics, and require rigorous interventions for the bottom 5 percent of schools, as well as those schools with the largest subgroup achievement and attainment gaps.

Similarly, LEAs would develop and submit to their States for approval plans consistent with those currently required by section 1112 of the ESEA, which includes provisions describing how LEAs will meet the needs of students at risk of failing to meet challenging State academic standards, including economically disadvantaged students, students from major racial and

## **IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION**

### **Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant**

---

ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, homeless children and youth, and neglected and delinquent students.

Funds would be allocated by formula to local educational agencies (LEAs) using the same four formulas currently authorized under Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies: Basic Grants, Concentration Grants, Targeted Grants, and Education Finance Incentive Grants. The Department would reserve \$5 million from funds appropriated for the ESED Block Grant to pay for LEA-level population and poverty updates from Census that would be required for the four allocation formulas, consistent with the current practice under the Title I program.

Each State would receive a single grant reflecting the aggregate allocations of ESED Block Grant funds to its LEAs. States would have discretion to reserve up to 10 percent of their combined LEA allocations, including a minimum of 5 percent to support school improvement activities and up to 1 percent for administration. States would determine how to allocate school improvement funds to best support schools identified for improvement under State-determined accountability systems. Remaining State-level funds could be used for a broad range of ESEA-authorized purposes, including, for example, providing start-up and facilities funding for public charter schools, identifying and disseminating evidence-based interventions for improving student and school outcomes, strengthening teacher preparation and support, and improving school climate and safety.

States would allocate at least 90 percent of ESED Block Grant funds to LEAs, including public charter school LEAs, using the Title I formulas, and LEAs would allocate funds to schools using the rank order provisions in section 1113 of the ESEA, which generally require LEAs to give priority to their highest poverty schools.

The Department would be authorized to reserve up to 1/10 of 1 percent of ESED Block Grant funds for technical assistance, evaluation, and information dissemination related to Block Grant implementation. Up to \$5 million of this reservation would be available for the Project SERV program, which provides grants to LEAs and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to help restore the learning environment following a violent or traumatic incident.

### **FY 2021 BUDGET REQUEST**

For fiscal year 2021, the Department requests \$19.4 billion for a new Elementary and Secondary Education for the Disadvantaged Block Grant (ESED Block Grant) that would combine 29 Federal elementary and secondary education programs into a single State and local formula grant program, with funds allocated through the same formulas used by the Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies program. This proposal builds on the 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which reauthorized the ESEA and sought to restore State and local control over education by significantly reducing the mandates from Washington accompanying Federal education funds.

Discretionary grant competitions and federally managed national activities would be phased out under the ESED Block Grant proposal because the Administration has concluded that it would be more productive to transfer authority over those funds to States and local districts, which are better situated to target resources to improve student outcomes based on local needs and

## IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant

---

conditions. By eliminating its grant competitions and national activities, the Department will be able to significantly reduce staffing and administrative costs over time. The consolidation of most ESEA programs into a single formula grant program would also eliminate Federal burdens that have inhibited innovation and allow State and local educators to drive meaningful improvements in educational outcomes for all students.

The ESED Block Grant fulfills the purposes of the ESEA while respecting local needs and context. Building on ESSA's policy direction, the ESED Block Grant would further scale back the Federal role in education and empower State and local educators to determine how best to use Federal resources. The Administration's proposal would minimize Federal intrusion in local schools while continuing to provide significant resources that support State-led efforts to improve educational outcomes for our most vulnerable children. States would continue to submit accountability plans that would set statewide performance goals and targets, identify and address achievement and attainment gaps for all ESEA subgroups, ensure continued reporting on achievement and other key metrics, and require rigorous interventions for the bottom 5 percent of schools, as well as those schools with the largest subgroup achievement and attainment gaps.

In addition, the \$19.4 billion request for the ESED Block Grant would make a critical contribution to restoring fiscal discipline and limiting the Federal role in education by saving \$4.8 billion from the comparable 2020 enacted level for consolidated programs.

The ESSA reauthorized the ESEA through fiscal year 2020, and the Administration's 2021 request for the ESED Block Grant opens the debate over the future shape of the ESEA. The Administration's proposal recognizes that most ESEA funds already flow to States and school districts through separately authorized formula grant programs that are administered primarily through Consolidated ESEA State Plans. The ESED Block would take the next logical step and consolidate the funding supporting those State Plans into a single State and local formula grant.

The ESED Block Grant would retain the key principles of the ESSA, which recognized that the primary responsibility for creating, improving, and sustaining public education systems lies with States and local school districts:

- Holding all students to high academic standards that prepare them for success in college and careers;
- Annual reporting on key information about students and schools, including data on achievement and graduation rates; measures of school climate, quality, and safety; the professional qualifications of teachers; and per-pupil expenditures for each school and district;
- Requiring that when students and schools fall behind, steps are taken to help them improve, with a particular focus on the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools, high schools with low graduation rates, and schools where subgroups, including students from low-income families, English learners, students with disabilities, and students of color, are falling behind; and

## IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant

---

- Empowering State and local decision makers to continue to refine their own systems for school improvement.

The Request would maintain separate funding for State Assessments that underpin ESEA-mandated State-determined accountability systems, Training and Advisory Services authorized by Title IV of the Civil Rights Act, Supplemental Education Grants required by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, the Impact Aid programs that offset the loss of education revenue due to the Federal presence, and Indian Education programs.

The Department would reserve up to \$19.4 million for technical assistance, evaluation, and dissemination, including the identification and sharing of best practices for improving low-performing schools and giving parents the information they need to support a high-quality education for their children. Up to \$5 million of this reservation would be available for Project SERV grants that help LEAs and IHEs recover from violent or traumatic events that have disrupted the learning environment.

During initial implementation of the ESED Block Grant, the Department also would reserve funds to pay continuation awards to existing grantees under competitive grant programs consolidated into the ESED Block Grant. Such reservations would continue for up to 4 years to pay existing grantees through the end of their approved project periods.

### PROGRAM OUTPUT MEASURES

(dollars in thousands)

<u>Output Measures</u>	<u>2021</u>
Amount for grants <sup>1</sup>	\$19,339,067
Range of awards	\$12,405–\$2,365,223
Number of awards	57
Technical assistance, dissemination, and evaluation	\$19,363

<sup>1</sup>Includes an estimated \$983,011 thousand for continuation awards to current competitive grant recipients.

### PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

#### Performance Measures

The Department will establish goals and performance indicators to assess the impact of State and local activities supported through this program, based in part on the targets and goals established by grantees in their State and local accountability plans. The Department also would measure overall grantee performance by looking at such measures as student academic achievement, graduation rates, and performance gaps among student subgroups.



## IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

### Elementary and secondary education for the disadvantaged block grant

---

#### **OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION**

##### Programs to be consolidated into the ESED Block Grant

##### **FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS (9)**

Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies  
Migrant State Grants  
Neglected and Delinquent State Grants  
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers  
Education for Homeless Children and Youths  
Rural Education  
Student Support and Academic Enrichment  
Grants  
English Language Acquisition Grants

##### **COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAMS (20)**

Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants  
Innovative Approaches to Literacy  
High School Equivalency Program  
Native Hawaiian Education  
Alaska Native Education  
Comprehensive Centers  
School Safety National Activities  
Promise Neighborhoods  
Full-Service Community Schools  
Education Innovation and Research  
Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grants  
American History and Civics Education  
Supporting Effective Educator Development  
Charter Schools Grants  
Magnet Schools Assistance  
Ready to Learn Programming  
Arts in Education  
Javits Gifted and Talented Education  
Statewide Family Engagement Centers  
Teacher Quality Partnership

