

Special Insert into AESA March 21, 2017 Online News

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On March 16, President Trump released his [FY18 budget proposal](#) for federal fiscal year 2018 (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018; these are the federal dollars that will be in your schools for the 2018-19 school year). Referred to as a 'skinny budget', the proposal covers only the discretionary portion of the budget (NOT mandatory programs) and even in that, does not indicate the proposed funding level for all federal discretionary programs.

Overview & Analysis: As expected, the framing lens for the President's budget is his proposal for a \$54 billion increase in defense discretionary funding. (As a reminder, the cuts of sequester applied only to the discretionary portion of the budget, and applied equally to both defense and non-defense discretionary funding. Education programs are in the non-defense discretionary (NDD) portion of the budget. From the onset of sequester, President Obama was a staunch protector of ensuring parity between defense and non-defense discretionary funding; any time there was a push to increase funding for defense discretionary funding, he was agreeable only if there was a commensurate increase for the NDD slice of the pie.) President Trump blows the concept of parity out of the water. He proposes paying for his \$54 billion increase in defense discretionary funding by making a \$54 billion cut in NDD. As a frame of reference, that is approximately 10% of the overall NDD allocation.

Looking more specifically at the K12 education portion of the proposal:

- Cuts funding to the US Education Department by \$9 billion (13 percent)
- Provides \$1.4 billion increase in school choice privatization
 - \$1 billion increase for Title I, for state and districts to use for vouchers/choice/portability
 - \$250 million for a new voucher program
 - \$168 million increase for the charter school program
- ALL new proposed education funding in President Trump's budget is for choice/privatization. All other programs (for which detail is provided) are either cut or level-funded.
- IDEA is level funded (\$12.7 billion, or approx. 16%, less than half of federal commitment to 40%)
- Eliminates
 - Every Student Succeeds Act Title II (Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants)
 - ESSA 21st Century Community Learning Centers program
- Eliminates or cuts 20 other categorical programs. Those listed include:
 - Striving Readers
 - Teacher Quality partnership
 - Impact Aid Support Payments for Federal Property
 - International Educational Programs

There is much that remains unanswered, both in terms of the mandatory programs in the budget and other programs we care about in the K12 budget (including, but not limited to, Perkins/Career Tech,

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Rural Education Achievement Program, ESSA Title IV). *Please note that this summary includes all detail that is currently available. If you do not see a program referenced, it means the budget does not reference it. We cannot predict, at this point, whether that means an increase, cut or level funding.*

Looking Ahead: Two big questions remain to be answered: How committed is President Trump to this budget? That is, does this proposal represent his serious funding priorities or is it a compilation of campaign promises parading around as a federal document? Second, how does Congress react to this proposal? It is a proposal based heavily on cuts, many of which may make the proposal 'dead on arrival' on Capitol Hill. We have to see if Congress takes any/all/none of it into consideration as it starts its FY18 appropriations work. In terms of advocacy, the April installment of the [2017 advocacy challenge](#) will focus on federal funding.