



FUND OUR FUTURE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

On May 8, the House Appropriations Committee passed a fiscal year 2020 funding bill that provides a total of \$75.9 billion in discretionary funding for education programs. This is \$4.4 billion above the 2019 enacted level and \$11.9 billion above the president's budget request.

Of this amount, the bill includes:

- \$16.9 billion for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, an increase of \$1 billion above the 2019 enacted level and the president's budget request. The federal government's chief responsibility and role in education is promoting equal opportunity for a high-quality education. Title I funds are used to provide additional academic support, including extra instruction in reading and mathematics, and special preschool, after-school and summer programs to extend and reinforce the regular school curriculum.***
- \$14.5 billion for Special Education, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Special Olympics, an increase of \$1.05 billion above the 2019 enacted level and \$1.07 billion above the president's budget request.***
- \$2.6 billion for Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II-A), which can be used for professional development for teachers, paraprofessionals and school-related personnel and to reduce class size. This is an increase of \$500 million over the 2019 enacted level. The president's budget proposed to eliminate this program.***
- \$40 million for Full-Service Community Schools to provide comprehensive services and expand evidence-based models that meet the holistic needs of children, families and communities. This increase in community school funding is coupled with a \$40 million decrease in funding for charter schools compared to the 2019 enacted level.***
- \$24.9 billion for federal student aid programs, \$492 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$1.9 billion above the president's budget request. The bill provides \$6,345 for the maximum Pell Grant, an increase of \$150 over the 2019 enacted level and the president's budget request. The increase will help the maximum award keep pace with inflation.***
- \$1 billion for the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, an increase of \$188 million above the 2019 enacted level. The president's budget request proposed to eliminate this program.***
- \$1.4 billion for Federal Work-Study, an increase of \$304 million above the 2019 enacted level and \$934 million above the president's budget request.***

The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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