

The federal budget process for fiscal year 2026 is underway with three proposals currently under consideration: President Donald Trump's budget request, the Senate Appropriations Committee's bill, and the House Appropriations Committee's bill. This document summarizes the key similarities and differences among the three proposals and provides a side-by-side comparison of selected education programs.

Lawmakers have until September 30th to reconcile the three proposals. If Congress is unable to reconcile the proposals or pass a continuing resolution that maintains current funding levels, a government shutdown will occur.

Key Takeaways

- Both President Trump's budget and the House Appropriations Committee's bill eliminate several grant programs, while the Senate Appropriations Committee's bill largely maintains current funding levels.
- The proposals from President Trump and the Senate Appropriations Committee maintain Title I-A funding, whereas the House Appropriations Committee's bill proposes a \$3.6 billion cut.
- The president's budget includes multiple program consolidations, some of which reduce spending, while neither the Senate Appropriations Committee's bill nor the House Appropriations Committee's bills include those consolidations.
- All three proposals generally maintain funding for special education programs, although President Trump's proposal consolidates IDEA funding streams.

Table 1 below provides a high-level comparison of key provisions across all three proposals. While Table 2, beginning on page 3, presents the FY 2024 final appropriation amount for select educational programs alongside the budget proposals from President Trump, the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee. For reference, the FY 2024 grant allocations to Connecticut are provided in the rightmost column. All dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest million.

Table 1: Selected Education Program Provisions

President Trump's Proposal	Senate Appropriations Committee Proposal	House Appropriations Committee Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposes significant cuts and elimination of several grant programs. Preserves funding for a few large grants, such as Title I-A and IDEA. Consolidates and reduces 18 current programs into a single program (K-12 Simplified Funding Program), cutting \$4.5 billion. Consolidates special education grants into IDEA Grants to States and away from preschool, research, and staff development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rejects most of the president's proposed cuts. Largely maintains FY 2024 funding levels. Rejects the president's K-12 SFP consolidation and reduction. Rejects the president's IDEA consolidation. Prevents the executive branch from moving Title I and special education funding outside of the U.S. Department of Education and requires timely awarding of formula grants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mirrors many of the president's proposed cuts. Rejects the president's K-12 SFP consolidation and reduction. Rejects the president's IDEA consolidation. Cuts Title I-A by \$3.6 billion in next fiscal year (2026-27 school year). Rescinds nearly \$1 billion in Title I-A in current fiscal year (2025-26 school year).

Table 2: Select Education Program Funding in Federal Spending Proposals^{1,2,3}

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
Education for the Disadvantaged					
Grants to LEAs (ESEA I-A)	\$18.407 billion	\$18.407 billion	\$18.457 billion	\$14.626 billion	\$155 million
Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants (ESEA II B-2, Section 2222)	\$194 million	\$0	\$194 million	\$194 million	\$0
Innovative Approaches to Literacy (ESEA II B-2, Section 2226)	\$30 million	\$30 million	\$30 million	\$30 million	\$0
State Agency Programs: Migrants (ESEA I-C)	\$376 million	\$0	\$376 million	\$0	\$0
State Agency Programs: Neglected, delinquent, and at-risk children and youth (ESEA I-D)	\$49 million	\$0	\$49 million	\$0	\$1 million
Special programs for migrant students (HEA IV-A-5)	\$52 million	\$0	\$52 million	\$0	\$0
Impact Aid (ESEA VII)					
Impact Aid (ESEA VII) – payments for federally	\$1.625 billion	\$1.625 billion	\$1.625 billion	\$1.630 billion	\$7 million

¹ U.S. Department of Education. (2025). *Budget Tables: FY 2026 President's Budget Request*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/media/document/fy-2026-presidents-budget-request-110152.pdf>.

² S.2587 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026. (2025, July 31). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2587>

³ H.R. 5304 – 119th Congress (2025-2026): Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026 (2025, September 11). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5304/all-actions>

⁴ These figures represent the estimated FY 2024 allocations for the respective federal grants, rounded to the nearest million. Most allocations were sent directly to the State Department of Education, while some were disbursed directly to institutions, including higher education entities. Data was sourced from USAspending.gov and the Grant Payment Report from CSDE. For more information please see <https://www.usaspending.gov/search> or <https://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/dgm/grantreports1/paydetlmain.aspx?dyr=2022>

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
connected children, facilities maintenance, construction, and payments for federal property					
School Improvement Programs					
Supporting effective instruction State grants (ESEA II-A)	\$2.190 billion	\$0	\$2.190 billion	\$1.681 billion	\$17 million
21 st Century community learning centers (ESEA IV-B)	\$1.330 billion	\$0	\$1.330 billion	\$1.330 billion	\$11 million
State assessments (ESEA I-B, Sections 1201-1203)	\$380 million	\$0	\$380 million	\$0	\$5 million
Education for homeless children and youths (MVHAA Title VII-B)	\$129 million	\$0	\$129 million	\$129 million	\$1 million
Native Hawaiian education (ESEA VI-B)	\$46 million	\$0	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$0
Alaska Native education (ESEA VI-C)	\$45 million	\$0	\$45 million	\$45 million	\$0
Training and advisory services (CRA IV)	\$7 million	\$0	\$7 million	\$0	\$0
Rural education (ESEA V-B)	\$220 million	\$0	\$225 million	\$225 million	\$1.4 million
Comprehensive centers (ETAA Section 203)	\$50 million	\$0	\$50 million	\$0	\$0
Student support and academic enrichment grants (ESEA IV-A)	\$1.380 billion	\$0	\$1.380 billion	\$1.385 billion	\$11.4 million

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
K-12 Simplified Funding ⁵	\$0	\$2.00 billion	\$0	\$0	N/A
Indian Education (ESEA VI)					
Indian Education (VI) grants to LEAs, special programs for Indian children, and national activities	\$195 million	\$195 million	\$195 million	\$200 million	\$0 ⁶
Innovation and Improvement					
Education innovation and research (ESEA IV-F-1)	\$259 million	\$0	\$235 million	\$229 million	\$0
Teacher and school leader incentive grants (ESEA II-B-1)	\$60 million	\$0	\$60 million	\$0	\$0
American history and civics education (ESEA II-B-3)	\$23 million	\$0	\$23 million	\$23 million	\$0
Supporting effective educator development (SEED) (ESEA II-B-4, Section 2242)	\$90 million	\$0	\$90 million	\$0	\$17 million
Charter school grants (ESEA IV-C)	\$440 million	\$500 million	\$440 million	\$500 million	\$0
Magnet schools assistance (ESEA IV-D)	\$139 million	\$0	\$139 million	\$139 million	\$10 million

⁵ The Trump Administration's budget proposal includes a new grant program, the K-12 Simplified Funding Program, which is proposed to consolidate and reduce the following 18 grants: Comprehensive Literacy State Development grants; Innovative Approaches to Literacy; Neglected, Delinquent, and At-Risk Children and Youth; Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants; 21st Century Community Learning Centers; State Assessments; Education for Homeless Children and Youths; Native Hawaiian Education; Alaska Native Education; Rural Education; Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants; American History and Civics Education; Magnet Schools Assistance; Arts in Education; Javits Gifted and Talented Education; Statewide Family Engagement Centers; School Safety National Activities; and Promise Neighborhoods. For more information, please see <https://schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Trump%20FY%202026%20Budget%20Request%20Analysis.pdf>

⁶ While figures in this table are rounded to the nearest million, this caused the Indian Education Grant to LEAs to appear as \$0. In reality, the amount is \$17,980.

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
Statewide family engagement centers (ESEA IV-E)	\$20 million	\$0	\$20 million	\$0	\$0
Ready to learn programming (ESEA IV-F-4, Section 4643)	\$31 million	\$0	\$29 million	\$0	\$0
Arts in education (ESEA IV-F-4, Section 4642)	\$37 million	\$0	\$32 million	\$0	\$0
Javits gifted and talented education (ESEA IV-F-4, Section 4644)	\$17 million	\$0	\$17 million	\$0	\$2 million
Community Project Funding/Congressionally directed spending	\$88 million	\$0	\$100 million	\$0	\$0
Safe Schools and Citizenship Education					
School safety national activities (ESEA IV-F-3, section 4631)	\$216 million	\$0	\$190 million	\$190 million	\$3 million
Promise neighborhoods (ESEA IV-F-2, section 4624)	\$91 million	\$0	\$91 million	\$0	\$6 million
Full-service community schools (ESEA IV-F-2, section 4625)	\$150 million	\$0	\$135 million	\$0	\$2 million
English Language Acquisition					
Language instruction for English Learners and immigrant students (ESEA III-A)	\$890 million	\$0	\$890 million	\$0	\$8 million

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
Special Education					
Grants to states (IDEA B-611)	\$14.214 billion	\$14.891 billion ⁷	\$14.264 billion	\$14.239 billion	\$159 million
Preschool grants (IDEA B-619)	\$420 million	\$0	\$420 million	\$420 million	\$5 million
Grants for infants and families (IDEA C)	\$540 million	\$540 million	\$540 million	\$540 million	\$5 million
National Activities (IDEA D), including state personnel development, technical assistance, personnel, preparation, parent information centers, and educational technology/ media services	\$258 million	\$0	\$258 million	\$259 million	\$4 million
Special Olympics	\$36 million	\$36 million	\$36 million	\$36 million	\$0
Rehabilitation Services					
Rehabilitation Services, including vocational rehabilitation state grants, client assistance state grants, training, demonstration and training programs, protection and advocacy of individual rights, and Hellen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults	\$4.397 billion	\$4.556 billion	\$4.647 billion	\$4.504 billion	\$25 million

⁷ The Trump administration's budget request proposes consolidating several special education grants into one larger IDEA B-11 grant. For more information, see <https://schoolstatefinance.org/hubfs/Reports/Trump%20FY%202026%20Budget%20Request%20Analysis.pdf>

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
Career, Technical, and Adult Education					
CTE Perkins state grants (Title I)	\$1.440 billion	\$1.440 billion	\$1.452 billion	\$1.475 billion	\$12 million
CTE Perkins national programs	\$12 million	\$10 million	\$12 million	\$10 million	\$0
Adult education, including adult basic and literacy education state grants and national leadership activities	\$729 million	\$0	\$729 million	\$0	\$7 million
Student Financial Assistance					
Federal Pell grants (HEA IV-A-I) (Discretionary)	\$22.475 billion	\$22.475 billion	\$22.475 billion	\$23.254 billion	\$475 million
Campus based programs, including federal work study and federal supplemental opportunity grants	\$2.140 billion	\$250 million	\$2.140 billion	\$779 million	\$30 million
Student Aid Administration (HEA I-D and IV-D, Section 458)					
Student Aid Administration, including salaries, expenses, and servicing activities	\$2.059 billion	\$2.059 billion	\$2.059 billion	\$2.059 billion	N/A
Higher Education					
Aid for institutional development, including strengthening institutions (HEA III-A, section 311), developing Hispanic-serving institutions,	\$1.036 billion	\$923 million	\$1.031 billion	\$1.032 billion	\$0

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
promoting postbaccalaureate opportunities for Hispanic Americans, and strengthening HBCUs, predominantly Black institutions, Historically Black graduate institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities					
International education and foreign language studies	\$87 million	\$0	\$81 million	\$0	Unavailable ⁸
Transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$14 million	\$0
Tribally controlled postsecondary CTE institutions (CTEA Section 117)	\$12 million	\$12 million	\$12 million	\$16 million	\$0
Federal TRIO programs (HEA IV-A-2, Chapter 1)	\$1.191 billion	\$0	\$1.191 billion	\$1.191 billion	\$3 million

⁸ FY 2024 allocations to states are currently unavailable, as the U.S. Department of Education's links to these documents are inaccessible. For more information, see <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-higher-education/international-and-foreign-language-education>.

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
Gaining early awareness and readiness for undergraduate programs (GEAR UP)	\$388 million	\$0	\$388 million	\$338 million	\$4 million
Graduate assistance in areas of national need	\$24 million	\$0	\$24 million	\$0	\$1 million
Teacher quality partnership (HEA II-A)	\$70 million	\$0	\$65 million	\$0	\$4 million ⁹
Child care access means parents in school (HEA IV-A-7)	\$75 million	\$0	\$75 million	\$0	\$1 million
Fund for the improvement of postsecondary education (HEA VII-B)	\$171 million	\$0	\$146 million	\$48 million	\$0
Hawkins Centers of Excellence (HEA II-B-2)	\$15 million	\$0	\$15 million	\$15 million	\$0
<i>Institute of Education Sciences</i>					
Research, development, and dissemination (ESRA I-A, B and D, except Section 174)	\$245 million	\$0	\$245 million	\$245 million	\$0
Statistics (ESRA I-C)	\$122 million	\$0	\$122 million	\$123 million	\$0
Regional educational laboratories (ESRA Section 174)	\$54 million	\$0	\$54 million	\$0	\$0
Assessment (NAEPPA)	\$193 million	\$137 million	\$193 million	\$193 million	\$0
Research in special education (ESRA, Part E)	\$64 million	\$0	\$64 million	\$64 million	\$0

⁹ Sacred Heart University was awarded a 5-year grant totaling approximately \$3.9 million, \$130,934 annually, in FY 2024.

Program	Final Appropriation, FY 2024	Trump Budget Request, FY 2026	Senate Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	House Appropriations Bill, FY 2026	CT Grant Allocations, FY 2024 ⁴
Statewide longitudinal data systems (ETAA Section 208)	\$29 million	\$0	\$29 million	\$29 million	\$4 million ¹⁰
Special education studies and evaluations (IDEA, Section 664)	\$13 million	\$0	\$13 million	\$13 million	\$0
Program administration	\$74 million	\$0	\$74 million	\$74 million	N/A
Unallocated ¹¹	\$0	\$124 million	\$0	\$0	N/A
Departmental Management					
Program and Administration, including salaries and expenses	\$420 million	\$293 million	\$380 million	\$293 million	N/A
Office for Civil Rights (DEOA, Section 203)	\$140 million	\$91 million	\$140 million	\$91 million	N/A
Office of Inspector General (DEOA, Section 211)	\$68 million	\$63 million	\$68 million	\$63 million	N/A

¹⁰ Connecticut was awarded \$3.9 million through the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant as part of a multiyear (FYs 2023-2027) grant to improve the P20-WIN data system.

¹¹ In President Trump's FY 2026 budget request, there is a new line item titled "Unallocated" under the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) grant category that refers to funds not assigned to specific programs. This represents a proposed consolidation of several IES spending categories, including data collections, studies, and administrative costs.