

On April 3, 2026, President Donald Trump released his budget request for the next federal fiscal year (2027). The proposal cuts funding for the U.S. Department of Education by \$3 billion (3.9%) and includes changes to federal policies and appropriations for K-12 public education that will impact students at every level of education across the country.¹ The president's proposed reduction is a change from the \$12 billion decrease he proposed last year, primarily due to a \$10.5 billion increase to Pell grant discretionary funding.

This briefing provides a high-level overview of the president's initial budget request for K-12 education and its potential effects on Connecticut students and schools. Specific district impacts are not available at this time, and there is significant uncertainty about how the proposed changes would be implemented in a final budget.

How the Federal Budget Process Works^{2,A}

The federal budget planning process begins in the preceding fiscal year, when government agencies formulate their budgetary requests and submit them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

- The OMB then uses these requests to develop a budget proposal for the president.
- The president then submits this budget proposal to Congress.
- House and Senate committees then hold hearings on the portion of the budget related to their subject matters.
- Both chambers of Congress, the House of Representatives and the Senate, formulate their respective budget resolutions, which must be negotiated into a single, cohesive budget approved by both houses.
- Lastly, Congress sends its approved budget to the president to sign or veto.

Key Policies in President Trump's Proposed Budget

- **Funding for Title I would be maintained, but 17 K-12 education grant programs are proposed for consolidation and reduction.** While Title I is not reduced, the president's proposed budget request would consolidate 17 competitive and formulaic grants into one new \$2 billion "Make Education Great Again" K-12 formulaic grant — **a \$4.5 billion reduction from the \$6.5 currently in statute** — that would be provided to states as a block grant.³
 - In FY 2025, Connecticut received approximately \$165.9 million in Title I funding, the majority of which was passed through to school districts serving high-needs students.⁴
 - The president's budget proposal consolidates 17 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) grants into the Make Education Great Again (MEGA) grants,

^A For more information on the federal budget process, visit <https://www.usa.gov/federal-budget-process>.

without any specific federal mandates, similar to the president's FY 2026 budget proposal.⁸ The proposed block grant would also require State Education Agencies (SEAs) to allocate 25% of their grant for evidence-based literacy instruction and another 25% for evidence-based mathematics instruction.⁵

- **Special education funding under IDEA Part B would increase by \$747.1 million over the FY 2026 level.** This increase would largely be due to the consolidation of six discretionary grant programs into a revised IDEA Grants to States program.⁶
 - The president's budget also proposes consolidating IDEA Preschool Grants into the IDEA Grants to States program, which may impact grant recipients.
 - In FY 2025, Connecticut received a total of \$164.2 million in aid through IDEA Part B.
 - Under the president's budget, increased funding resulting from the proposed consolidation of discretionary grant programs would increase IDEA Part B funding by 3.7%.⁷

- **Funding for specific multilingual learner grant programs would be eliminated.** Title III, Part A for English language acquisition would be eliminated, resulting in an **\$890 million decrease** in funding for language instruction for multilingual learners and immigrant students.⁸
 - In FY 2025, Connecticut received approximately \$7.9 million in Title III, Part A funding.⁹
 - Title I, Part C, the Migrant Education Program, which allocates aid to states for highly mobile students who experience educational disruptions, would be eliminated, resulting in a **\$376 million reduction** in K-12 education funding.¹⁰
 - Connecticut did not receive any Title I, Part C funding in FY 2025.

- **Funding for charter schools would increase by \$60 million — from \$440 million to \$500 million — to expand the number of high-quality local charter schools.**¹¹
 - Of the six charter school grant programs, Connecticut schools have received aid through three 5-year grants.¹²
 - The Expanding Opportunities through Quality Charter School Program (CSP) — Grants to State Entities awarded the Northeast Charter School Network approximately \$24.5 million over five years in FY 2022 for Connecticut.¹³
 - Excellence Community Schools received approximately \$1.5 million over five years, beginning in FY 2022, through the CSP Grants to Charter School Developers pathway to open Norwalk Charter School for Excellence.¹⁴

⁸ For more information on education funding in the president's FY 2026 budget request, visit <https://schoolstatefinance.org/reports/k-12-education-funding-in-president-trumps-fy-2026-budget-request>.

- This school was approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education and funding was appropriated in the state budget for FY 2025. However, the school ultimately never opened.¹⁵
- **Funding changes to other departments may also impact grants to schools and support provided to students and their families.** The president's budget request would eliminate the Birth through Five Preschool Development Grant, **resulting in a \$315 million decrease**, and the Community Service Block Grant, **resulting in a \$775 million decrease**.¹⁶ Additionally, the president's proposed budget recommends reducing or eliminating funding for a wide variety of discretionary grant programs that provide support for communities and individuals.

Table 1: Federal K-12 Program Funding by Grant for Connecticut

Program	Description ¹⁷	FY 2025 Final Appropriation (\$ Millions) ¹⁸	FY 2026 Estimated CT Funding (\$ Millions) ¹⁹	FY 2027 Estimated CT Funding (\$ Millions) ²⁰
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)	Provides formula grants to LEAs to support K-12 education for low-income students and help them meet high academic standards	\$165.9	\$176.8	\$176.6
Impact Aid Grants	Provides financial assistance to LEAs affected by Federal Activities	\$5.3	\$5.7	\$5.8
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	Provides formula grants to states, and then districts, to increase achievement by improving instruction and increasing access to effective educators	\$17.5	\$18.2	\$0
21 st Century Community Learning Centers	Program enables states to support centers providing wraparound services aimed at improving student outcomes and well-being	\$10.8	\$11.6	\$0
State Assessments	Program assists states to administer high-quality aligned assessment systems as part of ESSA implementation	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$0

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Small, Rural School Achievement Program	Program helps rural districts implement activities to improve quality of teaching and learning	\$1.2	\$1.2	\$0
Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants	Program provides formula grants to states, and then school districts, to support well-rounded education opportunities, safe and healthy students, and effective technology use	\$11.3	12.2	\$0
English Language Acquisition	Provides funding for English language instruction	\$7.9	\$7.9	\$0
Homeless Children and Youth Education	Provides formula grants to states, and then school districts, to help homeless children enroll, attend, and succeed in school	\$1.1	\$1.2	\$0
Make Education Great Again (MEGA) (NEW)	Provides various grants to SEAs and LEAs through consolidated elementary and secondary school grants	\$0	\$0	\$182.3
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Provides formula grants to states to provide special education and related services for children aged 3 to 21	\$169.3	\$169.3	\$175.6
Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education State Act Grants	Provides assistance to states in expanding and improving career and technical education in high schools, technical schools, and community colleges	\$12.2	\$12.2	\$0 ^c

^c Under the president's proposed FY 2027 budget, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act would be moved under the purview of the U.S. Department of Labor. U.S. Department of Labor. (2026). *FY 2027 Department of Labor Budget in Brief*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/general/budget/2027/FY2027BIB.pdf>.

Endnotes

- ¹ Office of Management and Budget. (2026). *Budget of the U.S. Government*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Publishing Office. Retrieved from https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf.
- ² USA.gov. (2026, March 2). The federal budget process. Retrieved from <https://www.usa.gov/federal-budget-process>.
- ³ Office of Management and Budget. (2026). *Budget of the U.S. Government*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Publishing Office. Retrieved from https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf.
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Education (2026, May 13) Budget Tables. Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-overview/annual-performance-reports/budget/budget-tables>.
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- ⁶ Office of Management and Budget. (2026). *Budget of the U.S. Government*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Publishing Office. Retrieved from https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf.
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- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ Public Law No: 119-75.
- ¹² U.S. Department of Education. (2026, May 1). Charter School Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/charter-school-programs>.
- ¹³ U.S. Department of Education. (2026, May 29). Expanding Opportunities Through Quality Charter School Programs (CSP) Grants to State Entities (84.282A). Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/grants-birth-grade-12/charter-school-programs/expanding-opportunities-through-quality-charter-schools-program-csp-grants-to-state-entities>.
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- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.