


# MEMORANDUM

May 31, 2017

**TO:** The Honorable Chair and Members of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida

**FROM:** Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools 

**SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED FY 2018 BUDGET WOULD CUT EDUCATION BY 13.5 PERCENT**

The Trump Administration's detailed budget for FY 2018 proposes to cut education by 13.5 percent, or \$9.2 billion, below current levels. The Department of Education budget would reverse many of the agreed-upon solutions in the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and would shift \$1.4 billion into new federal school choice programs that target students outside of public school district programs.

While some key programs would be level-funded—including **Title I** low-income support, **IDEA** (Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act), and **Title III** for English Learners—the funding excludes the authorized inflationary increases built into ESSA. In future years, the Administration projects continued two percent decreases in non-military, discretionary programs.

Significant budget changes for FY 2018 include the following:

- \$1 billion in new Title I would be diverted to vouchers (portability) and restricted to districts that agree to allow weighted funding to follow students to any school.
- Title II formula grants are eliminated (\$2.3 billion) for teacher development following a 13 percent cut in 2017. Miami-Dade alone would lose \$17 million.
- Title IV state block grants are eliminated (\$400 million) for school improvement, despite ESSA projections to increase funding levels to \$1.6 billion annually.
- An equivalent amount is added for private and charter schools, including \$250 million for a new program of private school vouchers as well as related research and a \$167 million increase for new charter schools and facilities.
- Workforce education funding is cut by \$264 million with a disproportionate 33 percent impact on Florida's Career and Technical Education grant (\$21 million of the \$168 million cut) and a 15 percent impact on Adult Education (\$7 million of the \$96 million cut).

Department of Education programs **proposed for elimination**, besides the Title II and Title IV grants, include the following (with 2017 funding noted, in millions):

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (\$1,164.5)
- Alaska Native Education (\$32.4)
- American History and Civics Academies (\$1.8)
- Arts in Education (\$26.9)
- Child Care Access Means Parents in School (\$15.1)
- Comprehensive Literacy Development Grants/Striving Readers (\$189.6)

- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (\$731.7)
- Full-Service Community Schools (\$10.0)
- Impact Aid Payments for Federal Property (\$66.7)
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy (\$26.9)
- International Education & Foreign Language Studies Domestic Programs (\$65.0)
- International Education & Foreign Language Studies Overseas Programs (\$7.0)
- Javits Gifted and Talented Education (\$12.0)
- Native Hawaiian Education (\$33.3)
- Preschool Development Grants (\$249.5)
- Ready to Learn Programming (\$25.7)
- School Leader Recruitment and Support (\$16.3)
- Special Olympics Education Programs (\$10.1)
- Strengthening Institutions (\$86.4)
- Supported Employment State Grants (\$27.5)
- Teacher Quality Partnerships (\$43.0)

The District's ability to attract and retain educators would also be impacted by the elimination of public service loan forgiveness, which forgives student debt for qualified service in public or nonprofit organizations after ten years of loan payments.

Statements from leading educational organizations have been highly critical of the proposed budget. The National School Boards Association calls the budget "a devastating blow to the country's public education system" and strongly criticizes new voucher, tax credit, and Title I portability proposals. AASA, the School Superintendents Association, expresses "steadfast" opposition to portability as well as deep concerns over \$10 billion in education cuts, the pending Medicaid cuts in the healthcare bill, and child nutrition cuts, which create "a confluence of failed funding policy that will leave our students sick, hungry, and without adequate education program support."

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Engagement, at 305 995-1497.

AMC:mdn  
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cc: School Board Attorney  
Superintendent's Cabinet