

**May 5, 2025**

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

You have likely seen the news on the White House's release of the [Fiscal Year 2026 discretionary budget request](#) (which would be used for the 2026-2027 school year). This proposed budget is the first part of a multi-step - and many months long - process to develop and finalize the federal budget. This process includes:

- The President of the United States submits a budget request to Congress.
  - *This has not yet happened.*
- The House and Senate pass budget resolutions.
- The House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees and committees markup appropriations bills.
- The House and Senate vote on bills and reconcile differences.
- The President signs appropriations bills into law.

The Council of Chief State School Officers shared the following message about the budget proposal:

*In the first year of a president's term, their administration often releases what is called a "skinny" budget that is not as detailed as a traditional budget request. It is important to note that budget proposals are recommendations to Congress that require bipartisan legislation to take effect.*

*For FY 2026, which starts on Oct. 1 of this year, President Trump proposes significant changes to and reductions of federal grants for K-12 education. The president's budget request encourages Congress to consolidate K-12 grants into a "K-12 Simplified Funding Program" that would combine 18 competitive and formula grant programs "into a new \$2 billion formula grant designed to reduce ED's influence on schools and students and reduce bureaucracy." The budget request recommends "full funding" for ESEA Title I while reducing funds for the grant programs proposed for consolidation by \$4.535 billion. The budget request also recommends that Congress consolidate certain IDEA programs, while maintaining funding at current levels.*

*The administration proposes to eliminate funding for ESEA Title III grants to states for English Language Acquisition, which is currently funded at \$890 million, and the Migrant Education Program, currently funded at \$428 million. It proposes eliminating Teacher Quality Partnership grants, currently funded at \$70 million, and Equity Assistance Centers*

*that are funded at \$7 million. It recommends Congress reduce funding for ED's Office for Civil Rights by 35%, or \$49 million.*

*U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon provided a statement on the FY 2026 skinny budget release, available [here](#).*

*This budget request does not have the force of law, but outlines the Trump Administration's funding priorities and will serve to inform congressional deliberations about FY 2026 funding.*

I recognize that we have many more questions than answers. We will be watching this process closely and advocating for ongoing funding.

Have a great week,

Susana Córdova