



I. Senate “Chairman’s Mark” of FY 2021 Labor-HHS-Education bill released

- **What’s included below** – This morning, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-MO) published his “Chairman’s Mark” for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding bill, more than one month after the start of FY 2021. The bill is meant to serve as a starting point for negotiations with the House on a final bill, and will not be marked up or considered individually on the Senate floor. In fact, I think this bill will not be enacted until Congress provides COVID-relief funding, either in a separate bill or as part of the same package. Below are links to the text and report, a list of the CEF tables that are attached, and analysis of the funding levels.
 - **Attached CEF tables** –
 - **CEF’s usual 4-page funding table** that tracks the education and related programs we cover, showing funding levels back to FY 2018. For FY 2021 it shows the President’s request, the House-passed level, and this new proposal in the Senate. Increases are shown in blue, cuts are in red, funding that is frozen at the FY 2020 level is in black.
 - **Table comparing House and Senate levels** – A new table! This is a cheat sheet that shows just the national programs that have funding increases or cuts, and highlights in green whether the House or the Senate bill provides more; programs with frozen funding are not included. For most programs the House level is higher; the exceptions where the Senate bill provides more funding include charter schools, some programs targeted to rural and military communities (Impact Aid, Rural Education, Alaska Native education), some administrative accounts, career technical state grants, Title IV-A, and a few scattered others.
 - **Links to the legislative text, draft report, and Appropriations Committee press releases are below.**
 - [Legislative text](#)
 - [Report language](#) – this includes description of the program levels and the Chairman’s intent behind the funding. The description of the Department of Education starts on page 183. The funding table for Department of Education starts on page 263.
 - [302\(b\) allocations](#) – The Labor-HHS-Education bill has an effective increase of almost \$2.8 billion once you count a small increase in the discretionary funding and

a small increase in CHIMPS (Changes in Mandatory Programs) that take unspent money from mandatory programs and use it for discretionary funding. The Department of Education gets a \$433 million net increase of available discretionary resources once you factor in rescissions of discretionary Pell grant funding

- [Republican summary of highlights](#)
- [Democratic press release](#) – Appropriations Committee Ranking Members Pat Leahy (D-VT) describes the Labor-HHS-Education bill as “woefully inadequate to meet today’s challenges, even if we were not in a global pandemic. It underfunds education for our nation’s students, eliminates or flat-funds critical safety net programs, and provides inadequate funding for child care programs.”

II. Analysis of funding in the bill

- **Top line summary** – The Senate proposal provides a tiny (0.9%) nominal increase over last year’s funding level for the Department of Education – an increase of \$433 million if you don’t count Pell grant rescissions in both 2020 and in this bill, and of \$633 million if you do factor in the rescissions. This is a smaller overall increase than the House-passed funding bill provides. This bill focuses small increases on some but not all of the largest education programs as well as some of the programs that are targeted to rural, military, and minority communities. Funding for most programs is frozen at the FY 2020 levels. There is no emergency funding in the bill– for education or health programs.
- **Early education** – The bill increases funding for Head Start by \$100 million (0.9%), freezes funding for Preschool Development Grants, and increases the Child Care and Development Block Grant by \$50 million (0.9%). It freezes funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools program.
- **Elementary and secondary education** – The bill provides modest increases for just a few programs, partially offset by cutting the Education Innovation and Research program by \$60 million (32%).
 - **Title I** – The bill increases funding by \$125 million (0.8%) for the state grant program and freezes funding for all other Title I programs.
 - **Impact Aid** – Funding is increased by \$20 million (1.3%), which is a bigger increase than in the House bill.
 - **Title IV-A** – The bill provides \$1.25 billion, an increase of \$40 million (3.3%), which is more than in the House bill.
 - **Special education** – The bill increases funding for all three state grant programs by a total of \$125 million (0.9%). This is likely to lower the percentage of “full funding” that the federal government provides.
 - **Career Technical Education (CTE)** – The bill provides \$1.358 billion for the CTE state grant program, an increase of \$75 million (5.8%), which is more than in the House bill.

- **Rural-serving programs** – The bill increases funding for Alaska Native education (up \$1 million) and Rural Education (by \$4 million).
- **Charter schools** – The bill provides \$450 million, an increase of \$10 million (2.3%), in contrast to the to the \$40 million cut in the House bill.
- **Statewide family engagement centers** – The bill provides a \$5 million (50%) increase, which is more than the increase in the House bill.
- **Post-secondary education** – The bill freezes funding for the big student aid programs and provides very small increases for institutional development. It makes postsecondary education cuts of \$357 million compared with last year, and increases of only \$19 million for the national postsecondary education programs (there are some other increases for Howard and Gallaudet Universities and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf). It also increases funding for Student Aid Administration by \$100 million (5.7%).
 - **Pell grants** – The bill rescinds \$300 million of previously appropriated Pell Grant funding. Like the House bill, it increases the Pell maximum award by \$150 for next year, paid for from unobligated balances in the Pell grant account.
 - **Other student aid programs frozen at 2020 levels** – The bill provides no increase for other big student aid programs (SEOG, TRIO, Work-Study, GEAR-UP) and provides no new discretionary funding to support the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.
 - **Aid to institutions** – The bill provides a 1.9% increase in aid to almost all institutional development programs.
- **Museums and Libraries** – The bill increases funding for both the Library Services Technology Act and Museum Services Act programs.