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**FY 2027 Written Testimony for the Hearing Record submitted by the
Committee for Education Funding (CEF), from executive director Sarah
Abernathy and Steve Voytek, Advance CTE federal policy advisor and 2026
Acting CEF president**

**Prepared for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, in support of
education funding**

April 16, 2026

On behalf of the [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#), we thank you for rejecting proposed cuts to education-related programs in the enacted fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, and urge you to increase these investments for FY 2027. We also urge you to strengthen requirements that ensure that the Administration implements the funding Congress authorizes with fidelity.

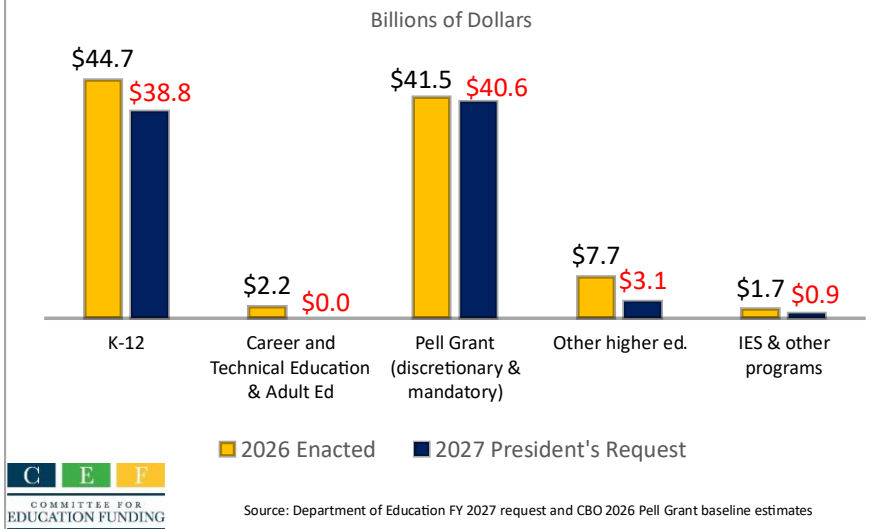
We call on Congress to reject the proposed cut of more than \$14 billion to funding for education programs in the Administration's FY 2027 budget request and to restore funding to at least FY 2023 levels of investment. ***Funding for Department of Education programs has been cut since then to a level that, in inflation-adjusted dollars, is \$22 billion less than what was provided for education 15 years ago.*** The Administration's FY 2027 proposed budget cuts go even farther, drastically disinvesting in students and schools as shown in the charts on the following page. The net cut in discretionary funding obscures the much deeper underlying cuts because the proposal moves to the discretionary budget \$10.5 billion for Pell grants that was provided with mandatory spending in FY 2026, for no actual increase in funding for the grants. Despite these aspects of the proposal, the American public [supports more education funding](#), not less.

The Administration's harmful cuts would affect preschoolers, students in elementary and secondary school, teachers and school leaders, adults who seek education and job training, Americans who rely on federal aid to go to

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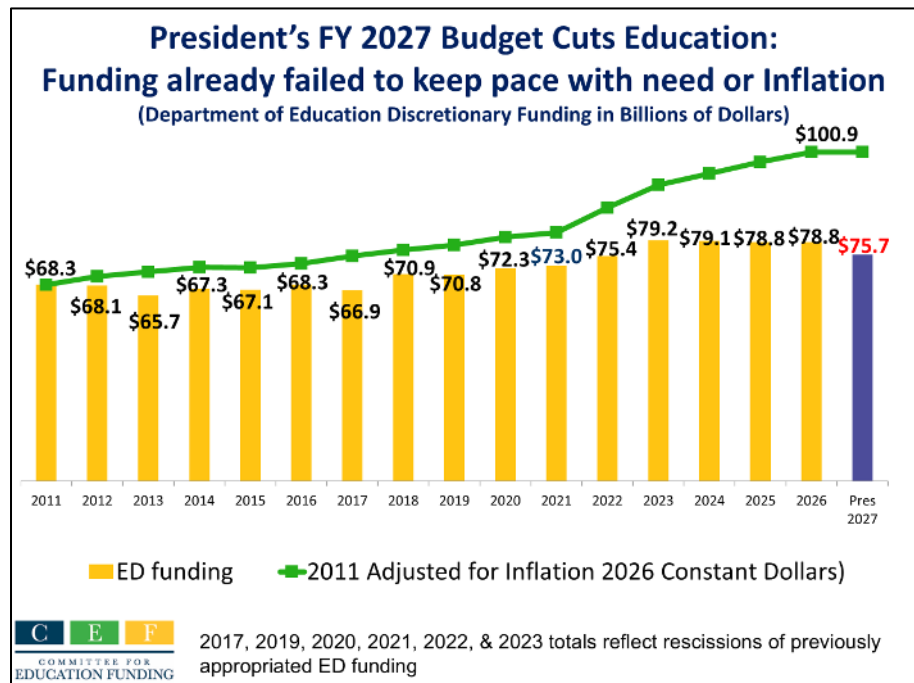
President's FY 2027 Education Budget Cuts \$14 Billion from Existing Programs



college, and much more. The erosion of the federal education investment is being exacerbated by the Administration's unilateral actions to withhold or cancel funding legally authorized and enacted by Congress in the last year and a half. In just one example, the Administration's FY 2027 budget shows that almost half a billion dollars that Congress appropriated for the

Institute of Education Sciences for FY 2025 has not been distributed more than six months after the end of that fiscal year.

We also encourage the Subcommittee to conduct oversight hearings on the impacts on education funding of [the many Interagency Agreements](#) that the Department of Education has announced that transfer day-to-day administrative responsibilities of more than half of the Department's programs to non-education federal agencies. Based on actions to date, CEF [remains concerned](#) that these other agencies are not equipped to ensure that federal education funding will be provided in a timely manner consistent with authorizing and appropriations law.



While federal investments in education fuel learning and are essential to our nation's continued success, they regularly account for only about 2 percent of the federal budget. Investments in

education are among the best the country can make, reaping rewards immediately in terms of student achievement and knowledge, and over the long term in greater economic output, community engagement, and a well-informed populace prepared for a global economic environment. Indeed, higher education is [America's eighth largest export](#), contributing \$50 billion annually to the nation's economy.

- **Public schools are key to local economies**; in [many communities, schools are the largest employer](#). Overall, education and libraries account for 6 percent of the country's jobs ([BLS, May 2024](#)).
- **The 6.9 million unfilled jobs in America could go unfilled** if the US does not graduate students with 21st century skills and knowledge needed for success in today's rapidly transforming global economy.
- **[Wages and employment rates increase with more years of education](#)**, and higher wages lead to more tax revenue that boosts the economy.
- **[A strong military depends on investments in science, technology, engineering, math, and other disciplines, and a strong higher education system](#)**.
- **[Greater investments in public schools lead to less adult crime](#)**, also saving future public costs.

Education is one of the few policy areas where investment directly translates into economic mobility and long-term growth. Cutting education is not fiscal responsibility – it is a generational mistake. We urge Congress to reject the Administration's proposed funding cuts. Instead, the Subcommittee should make a greater down payment towards meeting educational needs that span the entire continuum and ensure that the Department of Education and other agencies remain adequately funded and sufficiently staffed to provide vital oversight and technical assistance so they can appropriately implement the funding Congress enacts.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan, non-profit organization reflecting the education continuum. Our members are parents and students, teachers and school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, school board members, universities and school districts, and associations with the common goal of ensuring that education is adequately funded.



Steve Voytek
Acting President

Sincerely,



Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director