

April 26, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

For press inquiries contact: Mackenzie Shutler, 714-321-8474 | mshutler@kivvit.com

President Trump's 2019 Budget Hurts Students and Teachers, Cuts Needed Federal Support for Education, Says Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Analysis

Budget cuts would impact learning and access to education across the continuum, according to practitioners

WASHINGTON, DC – The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, today released its annual analysis of the president's education budget. CEF shared the findings at a Capitol Hill briefing where education practitioners described how some of the major cuts in the President's proposed budget would affect learning and teaching across the education continuum – from early education to K-12 education to higher education, including adult education and afterschool programs.

President Trump's fiscal year (FY) 2019 budget cuts funding for Department of Education programs by \$7.7 billion (11 percent) below the level Congress recently provided for the current year, and cuts student loans by \$203 billion over ten years. The budget also sharply cuts funding for other education-related programs that support wraparound services and workforce development.

"The President's budget flies in the face of the choices Congress made this spring to increase the overall level of non-defense discretionary funding and to invest some of the increase in federal education programs. After close to 10 years of holding education funding at a virtual freeze, last month Congress increased education funding by \$3.9 billion, providing significant increases for many of the programs that the President's budget would eliminate," said CEF Executive Director Sheryl Cohen.

"This budget reflects the Administration's ongoing effort to diminish the federal government's role in education by slashing support for public education and training programs with proven track records," noted CEF President Jeff Carter, Senior Policy Advisor to the National Coalition for Literacy. "The budget's few increases are targeted to school choice, including federal support for private schools, while making deep cuts to essential programs that students, schools, and communities rely on."

Investments in education account for less than 2 percent of the federal budget, but the President's budget cuts that share even further. It outright eliminates close to 30 programs that Congress just funded at \$6.9 billion, including the main federal program for teacher and principal hiring and training, the federal afterschool program, one of the largest sources of grant aid to help low-income students go to college, and the newly created block grant designed to support a range of elementary and secondary education services, among other key programs.

Each year CEF publishes a detailed, program-by-program analysis of the President's budget request for education programs, complete with charts and tables showing the funding history and illustrating the reach and impact of federal education investments. The book is a resource for Members of Congress and their staffs, as well as for others interested in understanding the importance and scope of federal education programs and services.

To illustrate the importance of federal education funding and highlight the local impact of the President's proposed cuts, CEF hosted a panel today on Capitol Hill of education practitioners with experience implementing early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, adult education, postsecondary education, and afterschool programs.

Educators shared today the impact the budget would have locally:

"I see every day how early childhood education makes a huge difference in the lives of students and families in West Virginia – it's one of the best investments we can make. Federal funds help fill gaps in education funding from the state and localities, and the cuts in the President's budget will make it that much harder to ensure that all children arrive at school ready to learn." – **Linda Palenchar, Ed.D., Director of Preschool Programs and Special Education, Fayette County Schools, Fayetteville, WV**

"With state and local funding stretched thin, any cut in federal education funding directly impacts the kids I teach and the ability of all teachers to do their jobs. Last year I spent \$3000 of my own money on supplies for my students, but my classroom still doesn't have the basics it needs – not even enough books or desks. Every dollar of federal support for teachers, training, curriculum development, counselors, and special education services is important and makes a real difference in my school and to the students we're teaching." – **Melissa Smith, teacher, U.S. Grant High School, Oklahoma City, OK**

"Almost all the students at Heritage University rely on federal student aid – we're a small non-profit university in the Yakima Nation with a student population that is 70% Latino and 15% Native American, and more than 90% are first-generation college students. The cuts to important grant and loan programs in the President's budget – to TRIO, the maximum Pell grant, SEOG, among others – jeopardize students' ability to obtain a college education, which today is a financial imperative." – **Andrew Sund, Ph.D., President, Heritage University, Toppenish, WA**

"In Central Alabama, there are more than 92,000 adults who are considered functionally illiterate. On a daily basis, we see the impact of illiteracy. It affects poverty, healthcare, education, employment, workforce quality, and access to resources. We also see the generational effects of illiteracy and the resulting poverty cycling from parents to children. Without programs like ours, people have few options to address their challenges. Adult education programs provide the literacy skills and opportunities people need to better their lives, our communities, and our nation. Funding is critical for adult education." – **Steve Hannum, Director of Literacy Initiatives, The Literacy Council of Central Alabama, Birmingham, AL**

"Afterschool programs play an important role in building strong communities by supporting working families, while promoting children's academic success and motivation through project-based learning

that focuses on connecting college and career applications. The President’s proposal to eliminate all federal support for afterschool programs will have a dramatic impact – in Tennessee, many of the programs would just disappear.” – **Sindy Dawkins-Schade, President, SHADES of Development, Knoxville, TN**

###

The [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) is the oldest and largest coalition of education associations, and provides a strong and unified voice in support of increasing federal investments in education. CEF’s 110 members include educational associations, institutions, agencies, and organizations representing the continuum of education – early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, higher education, adult and career education, and educational enhancements such as libraries and museums – including students, teachers and faculty, parents, administrators, counselors and other school employees, and school board members. In addition to publishing its budget book, CEF also posts evidence-based [fact sheets](#), [charts](#), and funding tables on its [website](#). For a full copy of the Budget Book, please e-mail Mackenzie Shutler at mshutler@kivvit.com.