



President Trump's Proposed Fiscal Year ~~2018 (FY18)~~ 2008 (FY08) Budget for the U.S. Department of Education

President Trump’s budget proposal, “America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again,” slashes funds for the Department of Education from \$68.2 billion to \$59 billion, a severe cut of 13.5 percent. The last time the Department of Education was funded at this level was FY 2008, before the great recession. As a nation, we have made significant educational progress since 2008, and the Trump Administration’s budget threatens to undo this progress by undermining the Department’s ability to carry out its mission to create equitable educational opportunities and making American students competitive with the best in the world.

Since 2008, high school graduation rates have increased, including for historically disadvantaged students.

Between academic years 2007-08 and 2014-15, the overall high school graduation rate has increased from 74.9% to **↑83.2%**, with notable gains for the following groups of students:

Student Group	2007-2008 High School Graduation Rate (unless otherwise noted)	2014-2015 High School Graduation Rate
All	74.9%	↑83.2%
Black	61.5%	↑74.6%
Hispanic	63.5%	↑77.8%
Native/Alaskan	64.2%	↑71.6%
Low-Income	70% (in 2010-11)	↑76.1%
Students with Disabilities	59% (in 2010-11)	↑64.6%

Taking us back to 2008 education funding levels would undermine the Department's efforts to ensure that students are graduating from high school college- and career-ready. Specifically, President Trump proposes to –

- Eliminate afterschool programming for low income students (21st Century Community Learning Centers);
- Eliminate supports for teacher, school leader, and para-educator professional development (Title II-A of the ESEA);
- Provide an effective cut to federal funding to high-need state and school districts through failing to fulfil the bipartisan intent of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Title I-A of the ESEA); and
- Redirect scarce federal dollars to private school choice.

Since 2008, higher education has become too expensive for most of America's students and families.

Between academic years 2007-08 and 2016-17, the average annual cost of tuition, fees, room, and board at 4-year public colleges [rose by 28%](#), from \$15,660 to \$20,090.

Accordingly, between 2007-08 and 2015-16, the maximum Pell award has risen from \$4,310 to \$5,775, and the average Pell award has risen from \$2,580 to \$3,643. Since 2007-08, an average of [8 million low-income students](#) annually have utilized Pell Grants to help pay for college.

Despite college becoming increasingly unaffordable, more low-income and first-generation students are enrolling in – and completing – college.

From 2008 to 2015, the percentage of low-income students immediately enrolling in college after high school [increased](#) from 55.9% to **↑69.2%**.

The percentage of Hispanic students immediately enrolling in college after high school [increased](#) from 63.9% to **↑68.9%**.

The percentage of Black students graduating from a four-year college within six years has [increased](#) from 40.1% for the cohort graduating in 2008 to **↑40.9%** for the cohort graduating by 2014.

The completion rate for Indian and Native Alaskan students attending four-year colleges has [increased](#) from 38.3% to **↑41%**.

The completion rate for Hispanic students attending four-year colleges has [increased](#) from 48.9% to **↑53.5%**.

Taking us back to 2008 education funding levels would undermine the Department's efforts to make higher education accessible and affordable to all students. President Trump wants to make college less affordable for low-income students through proposals to –

- Slash the Pell Grant program by \$3.9 billion;
- Cut nearly \$200 million from federal programs that promote college access and completion for low-income, minority, first-generation, and veteran students (TRIO and GEAR UP);
- Eliminate the Federal Educational Opportunity Grant Program (FSEOG), which has provided nearly [1.6 million low-income students](#) per year with campus-based aid grants to help pay for college since 2008; and
- Significantly reduce funding for Federal Work-Study, which has made college more affordable through the availability of work-study opportunities for [700,000 students annually](#) since 2008.