



Trumpcare & Budget Proposals Threaten School Jobs

Across the country, schools are vital to not only students, but also to communities. Public school systems are often one of the largest employers in a congressional district, and the schools they serve prepare young people for the jobs of tomorrow. Local school districts employ more than [8 million people](#), of which [3.1 million](#) are public school teachers – a critical component of the workforce. Public education is a vital part of our national economy, and we must recognize and protect the role it plays as an employer and engine of workforce development. Trumpcare and GOP budget proposals undermine public education by eliminating or reducing programs that train teachers to provide a high-quality education, provide supports for disadvantaged students, and educate all students to high standards.

Trumpcare Threatens Critical Services Provided in Schools

School districts rely on Medicaid revenue to pay for therapists, nurses, and other key personnel who provide services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for students with disabilities as well as critical health services for many students. While schools only receive less than 1% of all Medicaid funding, that amounts to [\\$4-5 billion distributed](#) to schools to provide services for students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), or other health benefits, such as the comprehensive Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit. Medicaid cuts would force school districts to make-up that funding from other sources, ultimately reducing school resources and threatening services for all students.

- In 2017, [68% of school superintendents](#) reported that they used Medicaid funding to keep school nurses, school counselors, speech therapists and other health professionals on staff.
- School leaders worry that a [cut in Medicaid](#) funding could jeopardize compliance with IDEA by:
 - Reducing the number of paraprofessionals, which would compromise IEP services;
 - Undermining ability to work with outside agencies to provide services;
 - Increasing caseloads for special education teachers; or
 - Reducing funds available to pay educators to provide auxiliary services time.
- Cuts to Medicaid proposed under the House-passed Trumpcare bill [equate to the salaries](#) of:
 - 12,539 school nurses;
 - 9,877 school social workers;
 - 8,094 school counselors or psychologists;
 - 9,500 school-based physical therapists; or
 - 10,000 speech language professionals.
- ***These cuts proposed in Trumpcare could mean that schools lose 17% of school nurses, 27% of school social workers, or 19% of school counselors or psychologists nationwide.***

The President and House GOP Budgets Eliminate Key Funding for Teachers

The budgets released by the Trump Administration and the House GOP proposed eliminating Title II, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is the third-largest program in the U.S. Department of Education's

budget that supports K-12 education. The program provides grants to states and districts, which must be used to support educator development, recruitment and retention efforts, and class size reduction.

- Schools and school districts use Title II, Part A funds to create jobs and [support personnel in schools](#). In fact, these funds are used to:
 - Reimburse teachers for pursuing graduate degrees, especially in administration;
 - Recruit teachers to work in areas with teacher shortages;
 - Provide high-quality, evidence-based professional development;
 - Reduce class sizes by paying teacher salaries; and
- ***Eliminating this program means schools could lose approximately 9,000 teachers nationwide.***

Trumpcare and the GOP budget proposals put jobs at risk in local communities. Schools will be expected to do more with less, ultimately hurting students and the communities they live in. Both Title II Part A and Medicaid enable schools to employ staff critical to meeting the needs of all students and upholding the tenants of the ESSA: providing a high-quality, equitable education to all children.