



On April 10, 2013, President Obama released his Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. Overall, for education, it's good news. The Administration is requesting \$71.2 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Education in fiscal year 2014, an increase of \$3.1 billion, or 4.5 percent, over the fiscal year 2012 level.

The [2014 budget request](#) for the Department of Education is focused on six priorities: (1) high-quality early learning opportunities for all children, (2) improving teaching and learning in K-12 education, (3) making our schools safer and creating positive learning environments, (4) career-readiness for all, (5) improving affordability and quality in postsecondary education, and (6) supporting the Administration's Ladders of Opportunity initiative for high-poverty communities.

Within these six areas, there are several opportunities to improve educational outcomes for boys of color. Most of these resources, however, are from competitive funding streams that will require States and/or LEAs to demonstrate innovative practice in planning and implementation. States, LEAs and communities can begin now to plan strategically, gather research, and create the cross-sector partnerships necessary to be prepared for accessing these resources if they become available.

Below is a brief description of key funding requests:

Early Learning Opportunities

- \$1.3 billion in 2014 and \$75 billion over 10 years in mandatory funding for Preschool for All, a new Federal-State partnership that will support the implementation of high-quality preschool programs that are aligned with elementary and secondary education systems and help ensure that all children arrive in kindergarten ready to learn.
- \$750 million for competitively awarded Preschool Development Grants to help build State capacity to implement high-quality preschool programs.
- \$462.7 million for the Grants for Infants and Families program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), an increase of \$20 million to help States implement statewide systems of early intervention services for all eligible children with disabilities from birth through age 2 and their families.
- \$372.6 million for IDEA Preschool Grants to help States provide a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment to all children with disabilities ages 3 through 5 to help ensure that young children with disabilities succeed in school.

Teaching and Learning in K-12 Education

- \$3.0 billion for the new Excellent Instructional Teams program, which would provide both formula grants and competitive awards to help States and LEAs increase the effectiveness of teachers and principals.
- \$190 million in mandatory funding for a new Presidential Teaching Fellows program that would provide formula grants to States to fund scholarships of up to \$10,000 for students attending high-performing teacher preparation programs.
- \$5 billion in one-time mandatory funds for the RESPECT Project, which would help States and districts reshape the teaching profession through grants to States and consortia of districts with the most ambitious plans and policies for reforming the teaching profession.
- \$1.3 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, an increase of \$100 million to support competitive grants to States, LEAs, non-profit organizations, or local governmental entities for projects that provide the additional time, support, and enrichment activities needed to improve student achievement.
- \$659 million for School Turnaround Grants (STG), including an increase of \$125 million to support and sustain local efforts to turn around low-performing schools.
- \$215 million for Investing in Innovation (i3), an increase of \$66 million, to expand support for using an evidence-based approach to test new ideas, validate what works, and scale up the most effective approaches in high-need areas, including identifying and supporting effective teachers and leaders, improving low-performing schools, and encouraging parent engagement.

Positive Learning Environments

- \$50 million for School Climate Transformation Grants to help create positive school climates that support effective education for all students.
- \$25 million for Project Prevent grants to help LEAs in communities with pervasive violence break the cycle of violence. Funds would support mental health services to students suffering from trauma or anxiety (including PTSD), conflict resolution programs, and other school-based strategies to prevent future violence.

Career-Readiness for All

- \$1.1 billion for a reauthorized Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, which would strengthen alignment among secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and business and industry; create a better accountability system for improving

academic outcomes, technical skills, and employability outcomes; and provide i3-type competitive funding to develop, validate, and scale up effective practices, promoting innovation and reform in CTE.

- \$300 million for a new High School Redesign program, which would promote a redesign of the high school experience by funding competitive grants to districts partnering with employers (including business, industry, non-profits, and community-based organizations) and postsecondary institutions.
- \$42 million for a demonstration and evaluation of Dual Enrollment programs that would make grants to establish or expand dual enrollment programs aligned with career pathways and local workforce needs that offer high school and adult students the opportunity to earn college credits while enrolled in a high school or GED program.
- \$4 billion in mandatory funds, beginning in fiscal year 2015, for a Community College to Career Fund that would support community college-based training programs and other activities that help prepare workers for jobs in high-growth and high-demand sectors.

High-Poverty Communities

- \$300 million for Promise Neighborhoods, an increase of \$240 million, to dramatically increase the number of and level of support for high-need communities that develop plans combining effective, cradle-to-career services for children and families with comprehensive reforms centered on high-quality schools. This is a part of the President's Promise Zones initiative that bridges resources across several departments through significant requests in his signature place-based programs, including \$300 million for the Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods, a \$400 million request for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods program, and \$35 million for the Department of Justice's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Grants program, as well as tax incentives to promote investment and economic growth.
- \$102.2 million for College Pathways and Accelerated learning (replaces High School Graduation Initiative and funding for Advanced Placement, funded at \$78.9 million in total). This program would focus on increasing graduation rates and preparation for college matriculation and success by supporting college-level and other accelerated courses and instruction, including gifted and talented programs, in high-poverty schools.
- \$14.5 billion for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, renamed as Title I College and Career Ready Students. These resources remain the foundation of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act under the Administration's reauthorization plan, continuing to help LEAs ensure that some 23 million students in high-poverty schools meet challenging State academic standards.

The [2014 Education Budget Summary](#) and [detailed budget tables](#) are available online.