



Summary: Investments and Reach of the U.S. Department of Education

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The federal government plays a limited, but crucial, role in supporting American educational systems. The U.S. Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Department does this by providing funding, guidance, and supports to states and local governments, educational institutions, and individuals to expand educational opportunity and attainment; and providing important protections to all students in pursuing a high-quality education.

What does the Department of Education do?

- Provides substantial funding for schools, colleges, and universities to serve all students
- Invests in high-need educational areas, like mental health, after school programming, and teacher preparation
- Directly distributes financial aid to students and families to attend college
- Protects students from discrimination in K-12 and higher ed, and investigates potential violations of civil rights
- Ensures equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities, English learners, and other high-need student populations, like students in rural schools
- Generates research and statistics on national education progress and opportunity
- Helps states, districts, and schools improve student outcomes and close gaps in student achievement
- Engages the global community through dialogue and participation in bilateral and multilateral settings to strengthen learning and exchange with other nations
- Promotes career learning, preparing students for the workforce and high-need, high-quality jobs

How many students does the Department of Education support?

Rough estimates of K-12 students served:

- 26 million students from low-income backgrounds served under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
- 9.8 million students enrolled in rural schools
- 7.4 million students with disabilities served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- 5 million English Language Learner students served under Title III of the ESEA

- 1.1 million students experiencing homelessness served by the McKinney-Vento program
- Nearly 800,000 children living near military bases, Native American reservations, and other Federal properties served by Impact Aid
- 850,000 students served in Full-Service Community Schools
- 200,000 students served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Rough estimates of postsecondary students served:

- 87 million students and parents receive federal student aid to help pay for the cost of college, including \$36.6 billion in Pell Grants and \$1.6 trillion in current and outstanding federal student loans
- 6.6 million Pell Grant recipients
- 8.1 million secondary and 3.3 million postsecondary students served in Perkins Career and Technical Education programs
- 1.2 million learners (out-of-school youth and adults) served under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Millions of students across about 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), about 35 Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and over 500 Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

How many schools and institutions does the Department serve?

- K-12 funding that is required to be distributed every year reaches over 100,000 public schools in every State and territory and includes:
 - o More than \$15 billion to support 7.4 million students with disabilities;
 - o More than \$18 billion to support more than 26 million low-income students; and
 - o Nearly \$900 million to support 5 million English Learners
- Over 5,800 colleges, universities, and postsecondary institutions receive federal funding from the Department of Education.
- Between FY21 and FY24, the Office for Civil Rights received 69,613 complaints and resolved 55,361 of them, vigorously enforcing federal civil rights protections

What is the role of the Department’s Office for Civil Rights?

Congress guarantees that “no person” shall experience discrimination based on federally protected identity characteristics. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in schools and programs that receive financial assistance from the Department, impacting 79 million individuals across the country.

OCR works to eliminate these barriers through robust investigations and resolutions, policy guidance, and training opportunities. OCR has seen a dramatic increase in complaints in recent years – from 9,707 complaints in 2020 to 22,687 in 2024 – across all enforcement areas. OCR helps parents protect their child's civil rights. Without OCR, no other agency will have the protection of *students’* civil rights as its core mission.

APPENDIX: State by State Fact Sheets Technical Notes

The following pages contain a fact sheet highlighting investments and reach of a selection of programs from the U.S. Department of Education on all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

- Each fact sheet reflects award obligations data from Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Obligations data includes new, continuation, supplemental, and frontloading awards, both for formula funding and discretionary/competitive dollars.
- The Department additionally publishes [State Tables](#) describing the allocation of State formula award funds appropriated in a specific year. The following fact sheets exhibit some slight variance from the State Tables due to timing and allocations of discretionary grant awards and advance funding for programs that may vary year over year. The State fact sheets that follow display sums showing the actual obligation of grant awards. For programs with advance funding, the actual obligation amounts included in each State fact sheet will differ from the award amounts included in the State Tables due to the timing and allocation of advance funds.
- Please note that not every state received funding for every program mentioned (e.g., in every competitive grant program), though most programs are reflected for all States.

Section 1: Critical Annual K-12 Funding

- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):** Summarizes FY 2024 investments in IDEA for school-aged children and infants and toddlers with disabilities, and discretionary grants to support special educator development, technical assistance and parent-training centers. Students with disabilities counts are pulled from Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Part B child count [data](#) (ages 3-21). Student demographic data is annual by school year.
- **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I, Part A:** Summarizes FY 2024 investment from Title I, Part A of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which supports students from low-income backgrounds. Student population count is from NCES Elementary and Secondary Information System (ELSI) [database](#). Student demographic data is annual by school year
- **ESEA Title III:** Summarizes FY 2024 investment in ESEA Title III, which expands high-quality language instruction for English learners (ELs). ELs data is collected by NCES [database](#). ELs data is annual by school year.
- **ESEA Title IV, Part A:** Summarizes FY 2024 investment in the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program authorized through from ESEA Title IV, Part A, which helps create inclusive and well-rounded learning environments for students.
- **ESEA Title IV, Part B:** Summarizes FY 2024 annual investment in Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Learning Centers, authorized through ESEA Title IV, Part B, which supports academic enrichment programs during non-school hours.
- **ESEA Title V, Part B:** Summarizes FY 2024 investment in the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP), Small, Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA) and Rural and Low-income School Program (RLIS) authorized by ESEA Title V, Part B, which supports students enrolled in rural schools.
- **ESEA Title VII:** Summarizes FY 2024 investment in Impact Aid, authorized by ESEA Title VII, which supports students living on military bases, Native American reservations and other Federal properties.

Section 2: Funding for Workforce Development Programs

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) & Adult Education:** Summarizes FY 2024 investments from the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (Perkins) Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to connect students to career learning and workforce development opportunities.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):** Summarizes FY 2024 investments in all VR programs, including state grants and discretionary/competitive funds, which expand services and employment services to individuals with disabilities.

Section 3: Increasing college affordability and completion

- **Pell Grant:** Summarizes the number of Pell Grant recipients and total disbursement in Pell loans in each state based off student's state of residency for annual year 2023-2024.
- **Federal Student Aid:** Summarizes the cumulative number of borrowers in each state that have Direct Loans, Federal Family Education Loans, and Perkins Loans in open loan status and the balance, which includes outstanding principal and interest balances, in each state from 07/01/1994 to 09/30/2024. Interest on School-Held Perkins loans is not included in balances.
- **Competitive grants to support college access and success:** Summarizes FY 2024 investments through federal [TRIO Programs](#) and [Gaining Early Readiness for Undergraduate Programs](#) (GEAR UP) to increase college access for low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities.
- **Institutional aid for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs):** Summarizes all mandatory and discretionary investments in Institutional Aid through Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act in FY 2024 to strengthen and develop HBCUs, HSIs and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHSIs), Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), Predominately Black Institutions (PBIs) and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions (NASNIs).

Section 4: Competitive funding to support school districts, colleges and universities, and nonprofits

- **Mental Health Service Professionals (MHSP) and School-Based Mental Health (SBMH):** Summarizes FY 2024 investments from [MHSP](#) and [SBMH](#), funded by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and annual appropriations under the School Safety National Activities account, which help train mental health professionals and provide mental health services for schools.
- **Competitive awards for teachers:** Summarizes FY 2024 investments in [Teacher Quality Partnership Program](#), [Supporting Effective Education Development grants](#), [IDEA Part D Personnel Development grants](#), and the [National Professional Development Program](#), which support educators and address the needs of multilingual learners and students with disabilities.
- **Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development (RPED):** Summarizes FY 2024 investments in [RPED program](#) funded by the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) program, which promotes high-quality career pathways in rural areas.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INVESTMENTS IN WASHINGTON

Funding and support from the U.S. Department of Education in Washington includes:

Critical annual K-12 funding to Washington to meet the needs of 2,500 K-12 schools and over 1.1 million K-12 students, including:

- \$301 million in annual funding for 152,000 students with disabilities – reflecting 14% of Washington’s student population.
- \$307 million in annual funding for schools enrolling 511,000 from low-income backgrounds – reflecting 46% of Washington’s student population.
- \$20.6 million in annual funding for about 124,000 English learners – reflecting 12% of Washington’s student population.
- \$21.8 million in annual funding to support safe and healthy students and provide a well-rounded education.
- \$21 million in annual funding to support academic enrichment activities such as before and after school programs for students.
- \$3.4 million in annual funding for students enrolled in rural schools.
- \$110 million in annual funding to support children living on military bases or Native American reservations.

Funding for Department of Education-administered workforce development programs, including:

- \$41.4 million in annual funding for career and technical education and workforce development in Washington.
- \$75 million in annual funding to expand employment and services for individuals with disabilities in Washington.

Dispersing financial aid and supports to help students across Washington to attend and complete college, including:

- \$40 million in Pell Grants reaching 97,000 students in Washington.
- \$29 billion in current and outstanding federal student loans to support the education of 787,000 borrowers in Washington.
- \$59 million in annual funding to increase college access and success for low-income and first-generation students and students with disabilities in Washington.
- \$17 million in annual funding for 25 Minority-Serving Institutions in Washington.

Competitive funds - which school districts, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, and more have already competed for, and won, and are receiving from the Department, including:

- \$10.3 million in K-12 mental health supports to prepare mental health professionals to serve Washington’s schools.
- \$4.4 million to recruit and develop teachers and educators to better serve students.
- \$4.5 million to promote development of high-quality career pathways aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand industry sectors and occupations in rural areas.

All sums reflect FY 2024 disbursements as of 09/30/2024. There may be slight variance with Department of Education’s [annual budget tables](#) due to timing and allocations of discretionary grant awards and advance funding for programs that may vary year over year. For additional information please see: [ED Budget Office](#). Outstanding student loans are summarized as the cumulative total number of borrowers in each state that have open loans and balance, from 07/01/1994 to 09/30/2024.