

# Strive for Senate Funding Levels, Include Guardrails in FY2026 Education Funding Bills



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**Article I of the Constitution invests Congress with the power of the purse. It also specifies that no public monies are to be spent unless they are appropriated by Congress. To ensure funds appropriated by Congress are spent in accordance with the law, include guardrails in FY2026 education funding bills.**

- ▶ The Senate and the House are far apart on FY2026 education funding, but the **Senate bill is a better starting point**—with regard to funding levels as well as guardrails.
- ▶ The Senate bill provides **level or near-level funding for most programs, with small potential increases in key areas**—in Title I formula grants, Title II professional development grants, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It would also continue to fund the Institute for Education Sciences that collects essential data and administers the nation’s report card, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).
- ▶ The House bill **slashes Department of Education funding by 15 percent**—on top of the \$350 million in cuts to student loan programs made by the reconciliation bill. In particular, we oppose provisions that make deep cuts in Title I funding for low-income schools and districts, end Title II professional development grants, decimate the Office of Civil Rights, and eliminate English-language acquisition programs.
- ▶ **Students and educators need more support—not less!**
- ▶ As provisions of the **reconciliation bill** kick in over the coming days, higher education will become even less affordable. Millions of students and education support professionals (ESPs) are facing the loss of health care due to cuts in Medicaid cuts. They could also lose food assistance, including school meals, due to cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- ▶ Balanced budgets are required by law in all but one state, Vermont. Many states are already struggling to make ends meet. Further cuts in education funding would leave them facing a Hobbesian choice with **no good alternatives**: slashing student services—including some mandated by federal law—or limiting access to health care and food assistance even more.
- ▶ Provide FY2026 education funding **as close to Senate levels as possible and include guardrails** that appropriated funds are spent in accordance with the law.