



MEMO

To: Learning Forward A-Team Members  
From: Melinda George, Director, Policy & Partnerships  
Date: September 18, 2018  
Re: Fiscal Year Federal Funding Bill Passes Senate

I am writing today to share with you the most up-to-date information regarding the federal appropriations process and, in particular, how Title II is faring. We have great news to report – the Senate just passed the large bill containing full funding for Title II-A! More details appear below.

Last week, the House and Senate conference committee – appointed by the leadership - approved the FY19 Labor HHS-Education/Defense spending bill, termed a minibus. In order to put additional pressure on the President to sign the bill, the conferees attached to it a continuing resolution (CR) that would fund the remaining Departments and agencies without approved FY19 spending bills through December 7. If this “cromnibus” (CR + minibus) is signed into law, the Labor HHS-Ed and the Defense programs would be funded through the entire fiscal year while the remaining programs that are part of the CR would only be funded through December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sensitive to the urgency of passing this bill before the September 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year deadline, the Senate passed this bill today (September 18<sup>th</sup>) and the House is now expected to take it up next week. Despite grumbling from House fiscal hawks about the size of this spending bill and a desire by some to shut down the government to force spending cuts, passage by the full House seems likely. Most observers expect President Trump to sign the bill, but he has threatened previously to shut down the government if funding for his proposed southern border war is not included.

The LHHS-Ed/Defense bill would fund the Department of Education at \$70.8 billion and provide a few small increases for programs while level funding most programs. The Title II-A program and afterschool programs are funded at FY 2018 levels, respectively at \$2.05 billion and \$1.2 billion. The bill provides a \$70 million increase, bringing the total to \$1.17 billion, for the Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) flexible block grant program that supports a well-rounded curriculum, safe and healthy schools, and the effective use of technology. However, in order to keep the bill free of poison pills and controversial riders, the bill does not include a provision that would prohibit the use of SSAE funds to purchase firearms, which many Democrats and education groups had sought. Other increases include a \$100 million bump for Title I, \$87 million for IDEA state grants, and \$70 million for CTE grants. On the higher education front, the bill increases the maximum award for Pell Grants to \$6,195 (which translates to an additional \$100 per student) per year and provides modest funding increases for TRIO (+ \$50 million) and GEAR Up (+ \$10 million). The bill also extends last year’s boosts for campus-based aid programs, another \$350 for Public Service Loan Forgiveness servicing errors, and slight increases to other higher education programs.



Below please see the funding levels for key k-12 programs (compared to FY18 Omnibus - **BOLD Black** for increases, **BOLD Red** for decreases, plain text for level-funding):

Program Name	FY17 Omnibus	FY18 Omnibus	FY19 POTUS	FY19 House	FY19 Senate	FY19 Cromnibus
Title I	\$15.460B	\$15.760B	\$15.46	\$15.76B	\$15.885B	<b>\$15.860B</b>
Title II-A (Teacher Effectiveness)	\$2.0558B	\$2.055B	\$0	\$2.05B	\$2.05B	\$2.05B
Title IV-A (SSAE Block Grant)	\$400M	\$1.1B	\$0	\$1.2B	\$1.225B	<b>\$1.17B</b>
Charter Schools	\$342.2M	\$400M	\$500M	\$450M	\$445M	<b>\$440M</b>
CTE Grants	\$1.25B	\$1.2B	\$1.12B	\$1.295B	\$1.193B	<b>\$1.263B</b>
English Language	\$737.4M	737.4M	\$737M	\$737M	\$737M	\$737M
Education, Innovation, and Research	\$100M	\$120M	\$180M	\$145M	\$135M	<b>\$130M</b>
IDEA, Part B	\$12.002B	\$12.277B	\$12.002B	\$12.3B	\$12.4B	<b>\$12.3</b>
Promise Neighborhoods	\$73.2M	\$78.254M	\$0	\$78.2M	\$78.2M	\$78.2M
School Leadership	\$14.5M	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
State Assessments	\$369.1M	\$378M	\$369M	\$378M	\$378M	\$378M

While level funding for Title II is certainly good news, we cannot afford to rest. It is clear that Title II will again find itself in question when the fiscal year 2020 appropriations process begins and the increased spending caps level expires. We ask that each of you take some time to document your impact story in the Learning Forward impact database. The [survey](#) is short but will provide critical information for advocates to use when making the case on behalf of Title II.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.