



# Committee For Education Funding

## July 2006

### CEF MESSAGE

Congress must provide at least \$7 billion more than the President's request for Labor-HHS-Education for the success of America's students in the global economy. This additional funding has been agreed to on a bi-partisan basis in both the House and Senate budget resolutions, but has not yet been provided in FY07 funding bills. In fact, the House appropriations committee bill cuts education by more than \$400 million and freezes Title I funding for the disadvantaged and significantly under funds key programs like No Child Left Behind, IDEA and Pell grants.

### REAL PROGRAMS, REAL PEOPLE

Restoring the **Perkins Loan Programs** Federal Capital Contribution to \$100 million will provide over 57,000 students the valuable student loans they need to attend college: the Perkins Loans Program is the most cost-effective loan program in the federal government. - Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations

The number of students eligible for **Title I funding** rose by almost 800,000 between FY 2004 and FY 2006, an increase of 9.4%, while congressional appropriations for Title I rose only 3.0% during the same period.

Of approximately 14,000 public school districts, over 9,400 of them will have their allocations cut or frozen in 2006-07, compared to the amount they received the last school year. Some 8,300 school districts will receive a decrease in their **Title I** funding in 2006-07, losing a total of \$346.5 million over their previous year's levels.

The FY 2007 budget as proposed by the President provides no additional funding for **Title I** grants to school districts. - Council of the Great City Schools

**Pell Grants** are essential to providing access to higher education for low-income students. Pell Grants enable approximately 2 million community college students to enroll each year by helping with tuition, books and equipment, and living expenses. - American Association of Community Colleges

Despite the overwhelming support in Congress to fully fund **IDEA** by 2011, Congress is taking large steps backwards, further reducing their commitment. The House reported bill's increase of \$150 million will still reduce the federal commitment, once again intensifying the pressure on local districts and states to cover the federal shortfall. This level of funding is still \$6.2 billion below the level that Congress promised for 2007 and \$14 billion below the Congressional promise to provide 40 percent of the National Average per Pupil Expenditure for every child in special education. - American Association of School Administrators

**Reading Recovery** is a highly targeted intervention for children in first grade who are having the greatest difficulty learning to read and write. More than 1.5 million first graders have been served by Reading Recovery in the U.S. and nearly 80% of children who complete a series of lessons experience accelerated learning and reach grade level standard in just 12 to 20 weeks of individual, 30 minute lessons. Reading Recovery has been reconstructed into Spanish and has comparable results for children whose initial literacy instruction is in Spanish. The benefits of preventing reading failure for students and educational systems are immense. - Reading Recovery Council of North America

Parent involvement is a pillar of the **No Child Left Behind Act**. But the House Appropriations bill has eliminated funding for Parent Information Resource Centers, the only source of federal funding that is intended solely to help schools and communities meet the requirements of parent involvement contained within NCLB. The elimination of PIRC funding would be devastating to the communities they serve as most, if not all, PIRCs would be forced to cease operations. - National Parent Teacher Association

### FAST FACTS

- While enrollments in K-12 and postsecondary education are increasing, the federal investment in education has been cut. The House appropriations bill eliminates critical programs like education technology (\$272 million), parent centers (\$39 million) and arts in education (\$35 million), gifted education (\$9.6 million), and dropout prevention (\$4.9 million).

- Also in the House bill, the federal share of funding for students with disabilities declines for the second time in a row. Funding continues to remain well below the promised 40%.

- The nation's neediest students pursuing a higher education are the hardest hit since federal student aid funding is not keeping pace with rising college costs.

- Many essential education programs face flat funding, cuts or elimination. Consecutive years of freezes and across-the-board cuts have harmed many programs, large and small, already stretched thin by growing enrollments.

- Increased federal investment in education will boost our nation's international competitiveness and strengthen our economic and national security by increasing worker employability and productivity, producing increased earnings and tax revenues and reducing the incidence of costly social issues such as poverty, crime and unemployment.

- Americans support continued federal investment in education and health care. A recent bipartisan poll of swing voters identified strong support for education and health care as "smart investments in America's future."

THE HOT SHEET