

Education Funding



The FY17 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill must be included in an omnibus funding bill to ensure all students have greater opportunities and to help states and local communities work to successfully implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- ▶ **Our students' education must be a priority for Congress, which needs to ensure the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is included in a year-end funding bill and NOT left behind or relegated to a full-year "continuing resolution."**
- ▶ A year-long continuing resolution (CR) of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill would mean flat funding for all education programs, preventing Congress from prioritizing greater investments in key programs like Title I or special education that benefit students most in need.
- ▶ Despite some modest increases in FY16 to programs like Title I, IDEA and Head Start, education funding for disadvantaged students is still 10 percent below FY10 levels, when adjusted for inflation. Congress must do better by our students.
- ▶ **Continuing to disproportionately underfund Labor-HHS-Education undermines states and local school districts implementing ESSA which Congress passed overwhelmingly last December.**
- ▶ **Funding for Title I, IDEA and English Language Learners (ELL) programs to ensure all students receive a well-rounded education are essential to ESSA's successful implementation and to close opportunity gaps.** More than 50% of the nation's public school students are now eligible for free- and reduced-priced meals. Nearly 15 million children in the United States – approximately 20% of all children – live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level -, making investments in programs aimed at lifting up those most in need all the more critical.
- ▶ All of our students, regardless of zip code, deserve the tools and resources to help them learn. Passing a FY17 Labor-HHS-Education bill, not a year-long CR, during the lame duck session is a necessary first step to make that happen.