



# Education Insider



A weekly review of progress on legislation that impacts our students, classrooms and public education.

February 4, 2011

## ***This Week's News:***

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### **Tell Congress: Education Cuts are Bad for Students, Communities, and our Nation**

This week, the House Appropriations Committee announced the funding allocations for its subcommittees. Subcommittees will use these allocations to draft funding bills for the rest of this fiscal year (FY 2011). The Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee – which has jurisdiction over education programs, health programs, and many programs serving vulnerable children and families – will receive \$6.5 billion less than last year. As bad as that cut would be, the actual loss could as much as double, since the allocation level does not address a deep shortfall in Pell Grant funding.

These cuts will be devastating to education programs like Title I, IDEA, and Pell Grants; will leave millions of students without the services and resources they need to succeed; and will place additional financial burdens on states and local school districts.

The House will vote on these cuts, and possibly even deeper cuts, the week of February 14. Members of Congress need to hear from you now about how devastating these cuts would be to the students in your school and for millions of students across the country. You are the experts and you know what your students need to succeed. Make sure your voice is heard.

Remind Congress that Investing in education is an investment in our nation's future. Tell them that students get only one shot at an education and it is not their fault they are in school during a devastating economic crisis.

**Take Action TODAY:** [Tell Congress](#) to reject education funding cuts and to invest in education for our nation's future.

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## Message for Policymakers: Listen to the Experts – Educators – on ESEA Reauthorization

Congress is expected to take up reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act this year. In fact, Senate Education Committee Chair Tom Harkin (D-IA) has indicated that he would like to move a bill through the Senate by this summer. With so many new Members serving in the 112th Congress, it is essential that the experts – educators working every day in public schools across the nation – are front and center in the debate. Members of Congress need to be educated about the flaws in the No Child Left Behind Act and what is really needed to ensure great public schools for every student.

**Take Action Today:** [Tell Congress](#) that every child deserves a great public school, and that legislators need listen to educators if they want to learn how to make that happen

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### Cheers and Jeers

#### Cheers to:



Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), who introduced this week the No Child Left Behind Flexibility and Improvements Act (S. 280). The bill would make common-sense changes to the No Child Left Behind Act to give states greater flexibility in measuring student progress, assessing students with special needs, and helping teachers of multiple subjects meet “highly qualified” teacher requirements.

#### Jeers to:



House Budget Committee “Czar” Paul Ryan (R-WI), who has announced a budget cap that would slash domestic funding immediately, including cutting billions of dollars for education and decimating services for millions of students.

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