

## ***2011-12 Federal Budget: Department of Education Overview***

By Emily Workman

January 2012

On December 23, 2011, President Obama signed into law the 2011-12 federal education budget. It is important to note that the budget began on October 1, 2011 and continues through September 30, 2012. Total discretionary spending for the Department of Education is set at \$68.3 billion — a 1.4% decrease from last year. Part of the federal budget negotiations included a required reduction of 0.189% across the board.

Many of the department's key programs are set to continue at similar funding levels to last year.

- Title I-A, which provides funding to schools with high numbers of low income students, increased by \$60 million (0.4%).
- The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), which provides funding to educate children with disabilities, saw a slight increase of \$100 million (0.9%).
- Funding for Pell grants, which provide scholarships to low-income students, received a slight reduction of 0.58%, with a maximum annual level of per student funding set at \$5,550. A limit was placed on the number of full-time Pell grants any individual student may receive in a lifetime to a maximum of six years/12 semesters and requires that students have either received a high school diploma or GED, or have been homeschooled in order to be eligible.
- The Race to the Top (RttT) program saw a reduction of 21% from \$699 million to \$549 million. The budget legislation requires that RttT include a robust early childhood education component this year.

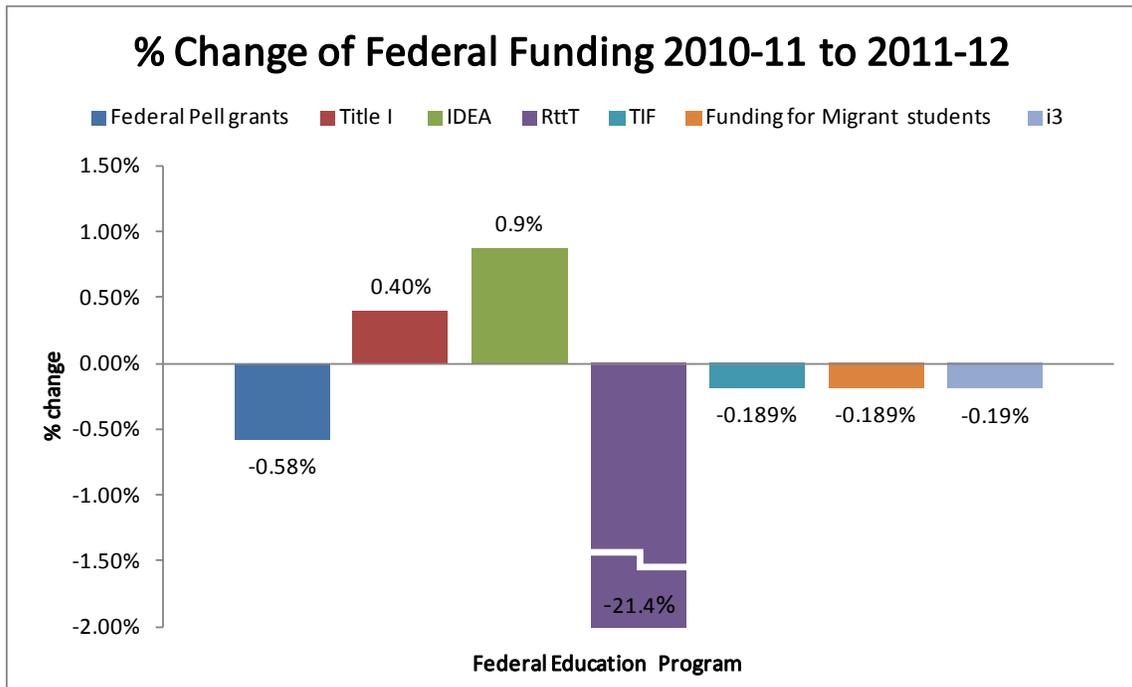
Note: Title I-A, IDEA, and Pell grants alone account for 73% of the total education budget

A number of other programs saw significant changes from last year's budget.

- A new reading initiative, Striving Readers, received \$160 million in funding. The measure creates supplementary literacy programs targeted to children reading below grade level, specifically targeting those in Title I-eligible schools.
- The Promise Neighborhoods program, which provides funding to communities for the development of integrated programs that meet the educational, health and personal needs of children, saw an increase of 100% to \$60 million from \$30 million.
- Other programs such as Foreign Language Assistance and Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grants were severely cut, if not completely eliminated.

Key Program	2011 Appropriation	2012 Appropriation	2012 Appropriation Compared to 2011 Appropriation	
			Amount	Percent
<b>Federal Pell grants</b>	\$23 billion	\$22.8 billion	-\$132 million	-0.58%
<b>Title I</b>	\$14.4 billion	\$14.5 billion	\$60 million	0.4%
<b>IDEA</b>	\$11.5 billion	\$11.6 billion	\$100 million	0.9%
<b>Race to the Top (RTTT)</b>	\$699 million	\$549 million	-\$149 million	-21.4%
<b>School Improvement State grants (TIF)</b>	\$535 million	\$534 million	-\$1 million	-0.189%
<b>Funding for Migrant students</b>	\$394 million	\$393 million	-\$745,000	-0.189%
<b>Investing in Innovation (i3)</b>	\$150 million	\$149 million	-\$283,000	-0.19%

Program	2011 Appropriation	2012 Appropriation	2012 Appropriation Compared to 2011 Appropriation	
			Amount	Percent
<b>Notable Gains</b>				
<b>Striving Readers</b>	\$0	\$160 million	\$160 million	100.0%
<b>Promise Neighborhoods</b>	\$30.0 million	\$60.0 million	\$30.0 million	100.4%
<b>Notable Losses</b>				
<b>Foreign Language Assistance</b>	\$26.8 million	\$0	-\$26.8 million	-100.0%
<b>Teaching American History</b>	\$45.9 million	\$0	-\$45.9 million	-100.0%
<b>Voluntary Public School Choice</b>	\$25.8 million	\$0	-\$25.8 million	-100.0%
<b>Mandatory Funds for Upward Bound</b>	\$57.0 million	\$0	-\$57.0 million	-100.0%
<b>Advanced Placement</b>	\$43.3 million	\$26.9 million	-\$16.3 million	-37.7%
<b>Teacher Incentive Fund grants</b>	\$399 million	\$299 million	-\$99.8 million	-25.0%



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