

WEBINAR SERIES

# 2026 Legislative Prep Series: Education Challenges and Solutions

NAVIGATING FEDERAL CHANGES IN EDUCATION  
FUNDING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



Thursday, December 11, 2025

# Welcome



**Elena Silva**

President and CEO  
Learning Policy Institute

# Federal Funding Research Presentation



**Michael Griffith**

Senior Research Fellow  
Learning Policy Institute

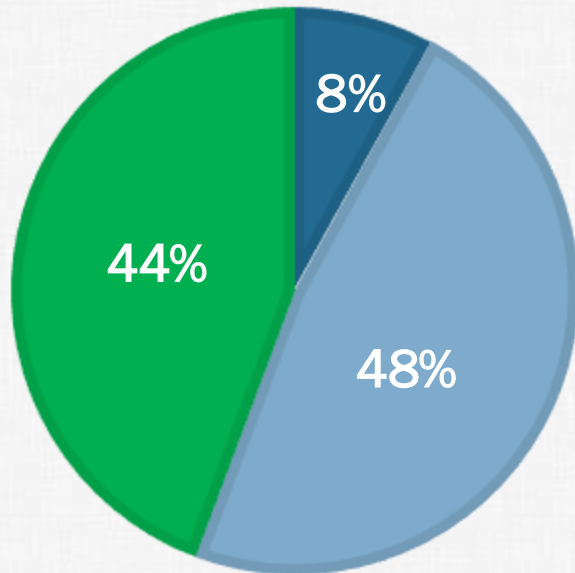
# Today's Agenda

- ▷ Federal Funding Research Presentation
- ▷ State Funding Research Presentation
- ▷ Panel Discussion
- ▷ Closing Remarks



# K-12 Revenue Sources 2024-25

■ Federal ■ State ■ Local



Source: NEA Rankings & Estimates

# K-12 Revenue Sources 2024-25

Funding sources range by state (and district)

Federal – 8%

- New Jersey – 3.9%
- Montana – 18.7%

State – 48% (Primarily from sales/income tax)

Local – 44% (Primarily from property tax)

Source: NEA Rankings & Estimates

# Federal Funding 2025-26

A lot of unknowns

- Which programs had grants cancelled and/or reprogrammed by US ED?
- What funding levels and guardrails (if any) for funding will Congress enact for FY 26?
- How will the “interagency agreements” with ED and other federal agencies, staffing reductions, as well as other changes impact states and districts?

# Federal Funding Overview

## Right now – Federal Funding Is Flat

### United States Department of Education P-12 Funding

- October 2024 to Sept. 2025 (FY 25)     \$~45 billion
- October 2025 to Sept. 2026 (FY 26)     \*\$~45 billion  
(*\*Note: FY 26 is being funded through a continuing resolution; the final total for FY 26 is not yet known.*)



# Federal Funding Overview

- President's Proposed 2025-26 Department of Education P-12 Budget \$~38 billion  
*(Note: This would represent a nearly 15% cut in funding)*
- The proposed budget would not reduce spending for Title-1, Part A.
- If the administration's budget were adopted, over 30 P-12 related programs in the USDOE would be eliminated.

# Proposed USDOE Budget 2025-26

## Proposed State Formula Cuts:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| • Supporting Effective Instruction          | \$2.2 billion |
| • Student Support & Academic Enrichment     | \$1.4 billion |
| • 21st Century Community Learning Centers   | \$1.3 billion |
| • English Language Acquisition              | \$890 million |
| • Title I-C – Migrant                       | \$376 million |
| • Title I-D State Assessments               | \$369 million |
| • Rural Education                           | \$220 million |
| • Education for Homeless Children and Youth | \$129 million |
| • Title I-D - Neglected and Delinquent      | \$ 49 million |

# State Funding Research Presentation



**Chris Duncombe**

Principal  
Education Commission of the States



# K-12 Finance Legislative Trends 2025



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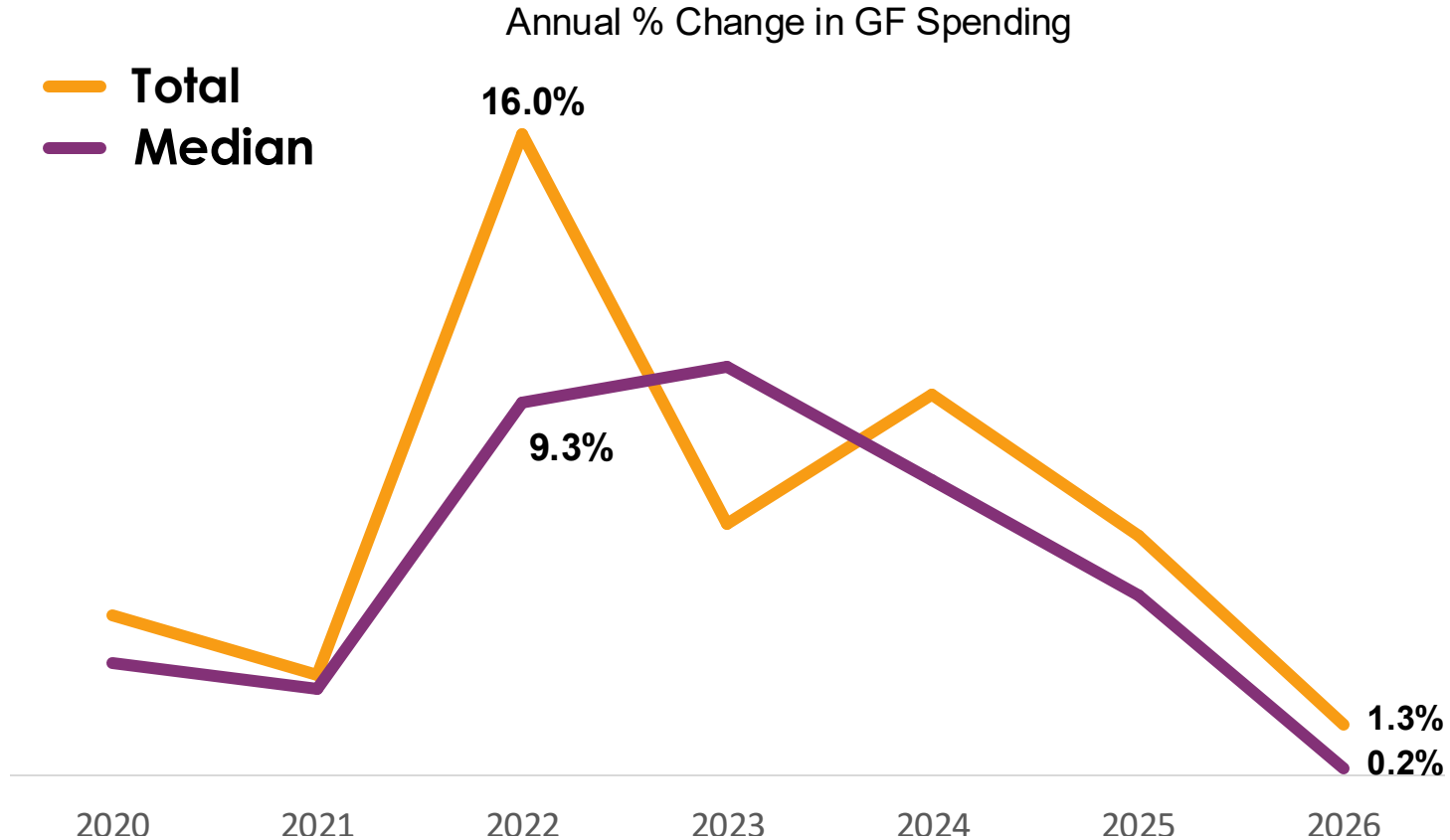
| [ecs.org](https://ecs.org)

# State Education Policy Tracking

Search for enacted and vetoed education bills across the country.



# State General Fund Spending Has Slowed



Source: National Association of State Budget Officers, Fiscal Survey of the States, Fall 2025



# K-12 Funding Trends

Funding  
Formulas

Weighted  
Funding for  
Certain Students

Teacher Pay





# Alabama

## Funding Formula

### RAISE Act ([SB 305](#))

Enacts new student-based formula starting in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Invests **\$166 million** in state funding for new weights for following student groups:

- Low-income backgrounds
- English learners
- Special education
- Gifted students
- Charter school

Establishes RAISE Act Review Committee and Accountability and Implementation Board to oversee new formula.





# Weighted Funding for Certain Students

	Tennessee	Mississippi	Colorado	Alabama
Special Education	✓	✓	✓	✓
English Learners	✓	✓	✓	✓
Low Income	✓	✓	✓	✓
Concentrated Poverty	✓	✓	✓	—
Small and/or Sparse	✓	✓	✓	—
Gifted	—	✓	—	✓
Career and Technical	✓	✓	—	—

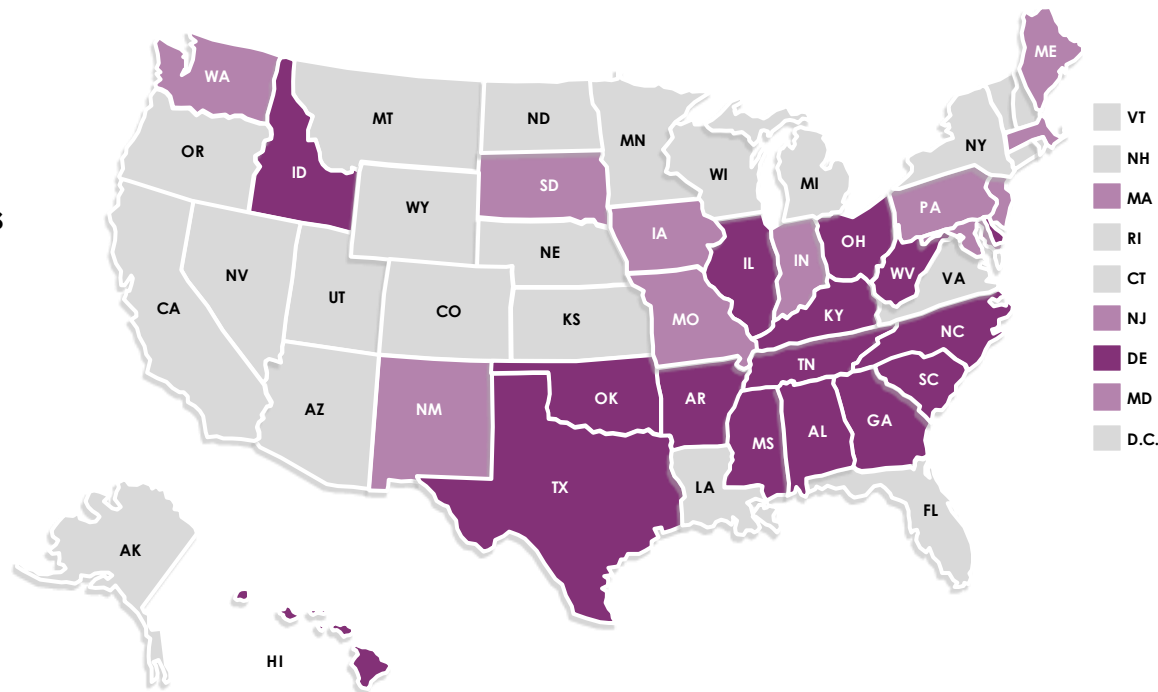




# Teacher Pay

## States with Minimum Salary Requirements

- Minimum Salary  
11 states
- Salary Schedule  
16 states



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Your education policy team.

# THANK YOU

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**Chris Duncombe**  
**[cduncombe@ecs.org](mailto:cduncombe@ecs.org)**

# Panelist



**William P. Soules**

State Senator

New Mexico State Senate

# Panelist



**Llew Jones**

Representative  
Montana State Legislature

# 2026 Legislative Prep Session: Education Challenges and Solutions



**Community Schools as a Locally Driven  
Strategy for Student Success**

**Evolving High Schools to Engage Today's  
Students**

**Navigating Federal Changes in Education  
Funding for Student Success**



**Thank you for joining!**





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