

Promoting Early Learning for Success in School and in Life

Having steered the economy back from the brink of a depression, the Administration is committed to moving the Nation from recession to recovery by sparking job creation to get millions of Americans back to work and building a new foundation for the long-term prosperity for all American families. To do this, the Budget makes critical investments in the key areas that will help to reverse the decline in economic security that American families have experienced over the past decade including investments in education, clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation.

Investments in early childhood education play a major role in this effort by providing essential support for working parents through child care subsidies, as well as establishing high-quality early learning programs for children birth through age eight that serve as a foundation for lifelong learning and success. Because the President is committed to helping all children succeed – regardless of where they spend their day – the Budget described below will raise the bar on quality across all publicly-funded early learning settings through investments in developing new standards and practices to improve outcomes, engaging parents in their child’s early learning and development, and strengthening the early education workforce.

To support the President’s goal of providing the support our youngest children need for success in school and in life, the Budget will:

Expand and Strengthen Head Start

- Makes permanent the Recovery Act expansion of Head Start and Early Head Start, which in 2010 expanded the number of three and four year old children in Head Start by 14,000 and increased Early Head Start enrollment by 50,000 children. The FY 2011 budget increases the total funding for Head Start by \$989 million, to over \$8.2 billion, which will allow programs to provide services to approximately 971,000 children and will maintain investments in program quality. Additionally, the Administration has begun work to implement key provisions of Head Start Reauthorization that will improve the quality of Head Start programs, including revising program performance standards, improving technical assistance to grantees, and requiring low-performing grantees to recomplete for funding.

Increase the quality and availability of Child Care

- Invests an additional \$1.6 billion in child care funding that will extend child care assistance in FY 2011 to approximately 235,000 more children than could be served without additional funds. The funds will also support a strong focus on improving the quality of services provided to children.

Promote Early Learning

- Builds on the expansion of early learning programs made through the Recovery Act, and realizes the President’s plan to reform early childhood education, promote high standards of quality across early learning settings, and focus on improving outcomes for children from birth through age 5 so every child enters school ready to succeed.

Continue the support to infants, toddlers and children with disabilities under IDEA

- Provides an additional \$250 million in formula grants for a total of \$11.76 billion to help States pay the extra costs of providing special education and related services to an estimated 6.7 million children with disabilities aged 3 through 21 years

- Maintains \$374.1 million in additional support to States for providing special education and related services to preschoolers with disabilities ages 3 through 5
- Maintains \$439.4 million investment to help States implement statewide systems of early intervention services for all eligible children from birth through age 2 and their families

Enhance learning in the early grades

- Provides \$1.35 billion to continue the President's Race to the Top challenge. The initial competition, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the Recovery Act) includes an invitational priority for activities that improve outcomes for high-need students who are young children (birth through 3rd grade)
- Continues the *Investing in Innovation (i3)* program with a \$500 million investment to identify, develop, and scale up promising models and interventions. The initial competition, funded by the Recovery Act, includes a competitive priority for activities to improve outcomes for high-need students who are young children (birth through 3rd grade)
- Invests an additional \$210 million for the *Promise Neighborhoods* program, which would provide funding for another cohort of competitive planning grants and would also fund new implementation grants to community-based organizations for the development of comprehensive neighborhood programs, with effective schools at the center. The core belief behind the initiative is that providing both achievement-oriented schools and strong systems of support to children and youth in poverty will significantly improve their educational, developmental, and life outcomes.
- Supports State and local efforts aimed at implementing and supporting a comprehensive literacy strategy that provides high-quality literacy instruction and support to students from prekindergarten through grade 12 by funding the *Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy* competitive grant program at \$450 million
- Supports State and local efforts aimed at implementing and supporting a comprehensive STEM strategy for the provision of high-quality STEM instruction and support to students from prekindergarten through grade 12 by funding the *Effective Teaching and Learning: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)* competitive grant program at \$300 million

Increase the Number of Effective Teachers and Principals

- Supports bold approaches to recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers - including teachers of young children, particularly in high-need schools by providing \$950 million in a new competitive funds for states and districts for the *Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund*
- Supports successful and innovative pathways into teaching and school leadership, including pathways for educators of young children, by investing \$405 million for the *Teacher Leader Pathways* program.

U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. For more information, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Overview/>

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