

GREAT TEACHERS AND LEADERS

“Today in America, a teacher spent extra time with a student who needed it, and did her part to lift America’s graduation rate to its highest level in more than three decades.”

President Barack Obama
State of the Union Address
January 28, 2014

Educators are working diligently to bring higher standards to their schools while also helping students develop in other ways so they can thrive inside and outside the classroom, in higher education, and in the workforce. In order to ensure that their students are successful, teachers and leaders need robust support that includes opportunities to collaborate around strategies to help their students and support to incorporate new technology to improve instruction. States and local educational agencies (LEAs) can also support educators by creating excellent instructional teams through better educator recruitment, preparation, support, and retention.

The President’s 2015 budget proposes significant investments in the development and advancement of educators, especially those in high-need LEAs, and schools and in hard-to-staff fields and subjects. These programs would also help States and LEAs ensure the equitable distribution of effective educators across schools, so that students attending high-need schools are not shortchanged on this vital resource.

- **New support to help educators leverage technology for instruction (\$200 million).** The proposed ConnectEDucators program would help educators provide excellent instruction aligned with college- and career-ready (CCR) standards through use of high-quality digital content and real-time data analysis to understand and improve student outcomes; broaden engagement, communication, and collaboration with families, teachers, and professional networks; and open up online access to experts and online/blended learning for students in hard-to-staff schools and subjects.
- **Dedicated funding to increase the effectiveness of teachers and principals (\$2 billion).** The Administration continues its commitment to supporting States and districts through formula grant funds used to improve the quality of instruction and school leadership through better recruitment, preparation, development, and retention. In guiding the implementation of the program, the Department would emphasize evidence based-practices designed to improve student learning and would help States and LEAs provide the supports teachers say they need, including strong school leadership to foster respectful school cultures and effective instructional teams; time for collaboration among staff; increased roles for teachers in professional development decisions, and support to help them use student work and outcome data to improve instruction and student achievement.
- **Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund (\$320 million).** This program would help States and LEAs improve the effectiveness of teachers and leaders in high-need LEAs and schools, in particular by creating the conditions to identify, recruit, prepare, support, retain, and advance effective and highly effective teachers, principals, and school leadership teams in those schools across the career continuum.
- **School Leadership Program (\$35 million).** The Administration’s request would build on the program’s support for evidence-based professional development for current school leaders

aimed at strengthening essential leadership skills, such as evaluating and providing feedback to teachers, analyzing student data, developing school leadership teams, and creating a positive school climate and deepening school leaders' understanding of CCR standards and effective instruction aligned to those standards.

- **Special Education Personnel Preparation (\$84 million).** The Administration's request would continue support for competitive grants to ensure highly effective teachers, leaders, and related services providers receive research-based training and professional development to improve results for children, infants, and toddlers with disabilities. In addition to supporting the pre-service training of individuals who provide direct services to students with disabilities, this program also provides training and support to individuals enrolled in doctoral programs who will become the next generation of faculty and researchers, identifying best practices and training new prospective teachers and related service providers.
- **RESPECT: Supporting Our Educators (\$5 billion in mandatory funding).** The Recognizing Education Success, Professional Excellence, and Collaborative Teaching (RESPECT): Supporting Our Educators project would support competitive grants for States and LEAs to implement innovative practices to improve the education profession through improvements to teacher preparation and early career support; opportunities for teacher development, advancement, and leadership; and supportive work environments with strong school leadership and collaboration.