



Florida School Boards Association FEDERAL NEWS & INFORMATION

April 4, 2022

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

On Monday, March 28, President Joe Biden unveiled his [FY 2023 budget request](#). The \$5.8 trillion proposal reflects the challenges the White House faces: an ongoing pandemic, the inability to enact its Build Back Better plan, and the complex issues and investments that are associated with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The plan also builds on some of the Biden administration's achievements, such as a new infrastructure package, and takes aim at climate issues and competition with China.

Regarding education, like last year, President Biden would like to see significant increases in Title I spending. The program, which saw a \$1 billion bump in the recently enacted FY 2022 omnibus spending bill, would receive \$36.5 billion — more than doubling its size. The request echoed remarks from the president's State of the Union address regarding the need for mental health supports for students affected by the pandemic. It asks for a \$1 billion investment to increase the number of counselors, nurses, school psychologists, social workers and other health professionals in schools, and a \$468 million investment in [Full-Service Community Schools](#) and partnerships to provide integrated student supports. Teacher recruitment and retention continue to be troubling during a widespread teacher shortage, and the plan proposes investments to support a diverse and well-prepared pipeline of educators. The request includes \$514 million for the Education Innovation and Research program, of which the department would target \$350 million recruitment and retention of a diverse teaching workforce. (The Department of Education's budget summary is available [here](#).)

Regarding higher education, the budget plan purports to "reimagine the high school to postsecondary education transition." One element of that vision is a \$200 million investment in Career-Connected High Schools. College affordability is an ongoing concern, and the Pell Grant maximum would increase by \$2,175. In addition, the plan aims to strengthen capacity at historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions via an increased investment of \$752 million.

In a [press release](#) on the budget request, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said, "Federal budgets are an expression of values. This proposal reflects the Biden-Harris administration's deep belief in the importance of education and the success and well-being of our nation's students. It's my hope that Congress answers the President's call for continued investments that help our schools hire and support more teachers, school counselors, and other personnel who can nurture the social, emotional, and academic development and mental well-being of our children and youth in this critical time and beyond. Across the country, we must focus our efforts on recovery. That means ensuring all students — especially those from underserved communities and those most impacted by the pandemic — receive the resources they need to thrive. Importantly, this budget also invests in access to affordable higher education and the creation of stronger pathways that meet the demands of our workforce and connect students to well-paying jobs and fulfilling careers."

The budget request will face opposition. While appropriators will support requests, write letters and hold hearings on FY 2023 spending in coming weeks and months, and advocates will do the same, it is widely assumed that the process will not be completed before Election Day. The results of the mid-term elections will mean that the 117th Congress will make final decisions about FY 2023 spending after the elections. Or the decisions will be at the top of the to-do list for the 118th Congress.

[President Biden's FY 2023 Budget Request Chart](#)



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SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON FY2023 BUDGET REQUEST FOR HHS

On Thursday, March 31, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee hosted a hearing on the “FY2023 Budget Request for the Department of Health and Human Services.” The sole witness was Xavier Becerra, secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Becerra testified that the money given to the department for vaccines and other COVID-19 treatments is running out. He called for Congress to authorize more money to combat the pandemic. Becerra also asked Congress to address state licensure issues that are obstacles to telehealth expansion, noting that the department has been working to fix challenges in this area. To view the hearing, click [here](#).