



A Union of Professionals

Impact of Trump budget on McDowell County and state of West Virginia

President Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's proposed education budget for 2018 would cut federal education funding by \$10.6 billion, or more than 13 percent. If Congress approves the plan, public schools and their students in McDowell County, and more broadly throughout West Virginia, would be severely affected.

21st Century Community Learning Centers grants

The Trump budget would eliminate all funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants. West Virginia now receives \$6 million used for after-school programming for more than 10,000 students.

McDowell County receives two 21st CCLC grants that provide after-school academic, artistic and cultural enrichment opportunities for students and their families at seven schools. The schools report they have seen decreases in disciplinary referrals and increases in health awareness and parent involvement.

The DREAMS 1 program, in its fourth year, received \$176,000 this year for learning centers at Kimball Elementary, Sandy River Middle, Southside K-8 and Fall River Elementary schools. They operate two hours a day, four days a week, with a staff of about 25 teachers serving more than 200 students.

The DREAMS 2 program received \$220,000 this year for learning centers at Welch Elementary School (two hours a day, four days a week) and Mount View High School and River View High School (three hours a day, three days a week), with a staff of about 20 teachers serving more than 2,175 students.

All seven centers offer a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) instructor and a life skill/job club instructor. Services offered to students and families include structured recreational activities, use of technology, access to healthcare and counseling, self-esteem and positive choices programs, literacy programs, tutoring and homework help, mentoring, drug and truancy prevention programs, and youth leadership and entrepreneurship programs. The elementary schools provide assistance during the summer for kids transitioning from fifth grade into middle school.

Title II

The Trump budget would eliminate all Title II funding, cutting more than \$19 million to West Virginia. The Title II funding pays for professional development for more than 1,500 educators, funds 71 teaching positions and ensures that students receive more personalized attention through reduced class sizes.

McDowell County received \$575,534 in Title II funds for the current school year. This could mean the loss of 13 full-time teachers or totally eliminate professional development for 95 McDowell teachers.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.6 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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Assistance for college tuition

The Trump budget would eliminate the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, which has awarded more than 6,000 grants and \$4 million in tuition assistance to West Virginia students this year.

The budget also would nix the Federal Work-Study program, which provided 3,465 grants to West Virginians last year, worth \$5.8 million. And Trump's budget would endanger the future of the Pell Grant program, which provided 58,693 grants to West Virginia students last year, worth \$206 million.

Other cuts that would affect McDowell County and the state:

- The Appalachian Regional Commission would be eliminated. It has provided grants to Reconnecting McDowell. West Virginia received nearly \$1.9 million in 2016; McDowell received \$112,089.
- The Community Development Block Grant program would be axed. West Virginia received \$18.6 million last year.