



EDUCATION

Research and Development Funding in the President's FY 2006 Budget

The President continues to support the improvement of K-12 students' math, science, and reading skills, with a special emphasis on the successful development and implementation of evidence-based educational programs and practices called for in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2002. The President's 2006 Budget for the Department of Education proposes significant funding increases aimed at improving mathematics education and helping striving readers in high school. The 2006 Budget also sustains support for research within the Department of Education's (ED) Institute of Education Sciences to identify programs that work.

Math and Science Partnership Program

To improve math and science achievement among our high school graduates, the Bush Administration has provided \$269 million, a 51% increase, in the FY 2006 Budget for the Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) program authorized in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002. The MSP request features a \$120 million initiative that would support projects to accelerate the mathematics achievement of all secondary students, particularly low-achieving students. This Department of Education program also supports grants to states that are used to support partnerships between institutions of higher education and local school districts that promote strong teaching skills for elementary and secondary school teachers, including integrating teaching methods based on scientifically based research and technology into the curriculum. In addition, the Budget provides the National Science Foundation with \$60 million to fund its ongoing MSP projects.

Striving Readers

About 4 million adolescents who are attending school have reading problems that interfere with their ability to prepare for college or get a good job. Yet middle and high schools have few proven strategies to address this serious problem. The President is proposing \$200 million for Striving Readers, a \$175 million increase for this initiative in the Department of Education to develop, implement and evaluate reading interventions for secondary school students reading significantly below grade level. Awards would be made to partnerships that may include colleges and universities, school districts, and other organizations. Some grantees would conduct rigorous evaluations of existing programs and others would establish or implement interventions that would be tested for effectiveness.

The Institute of Education Sciences

The 2006 Budget includes \$479 million for ED's Institute of Education Sciences. The Institute invests some of these funds in new research programs, including focused programs to identify effective approaches to mathematics and science education, to understand how to enhance children's reading comprehension and to intervene with struggling readers, to identify which preschool programs best prepare children to learn to read and do mathematics, and to determine how to improve the preparation and professional development of teachers of reading and mathematics. In addition, the Institute launched a major program to fund university-based interdisciplinary training programs in the education sciences to train a new generation of scientists who are capable of linking rigorous research to the needs of education decision makers. To make the results of high-quality research accessible to practitioners, policy-makers and the public, the Institute created the What Works Clearinghouse, which provides a central, independent and trusted source of scientific evidence on what works in education. In addition, the Institute provides funding for education statistics and provides data, analysis, and reports on the status and trends of student learning over time through the National Assessment of Educational Programs. The Institute has recently taken on responsibility for research in special education and for a new program to help states develop statewide, longitudinal data systems to facilitate research to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps. Focused programs to develop and evaluate interventions for special education will be initiated in 2006.