



PRESIDENT UNVEILS FY07 BUDGET – ELIMINATES PERKINS

February 6, 2006

The President's FY07 budget proposal was released earlier today, requesting \$54.4 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Education, a \$3.1 billion or 5.5 percent reduction in funding from FY06 levels. In large part, this decrease in funding is due to the elimination of 42 education programs, including vocational education (Perkins), demonstration projects for students with disabilities, TRIO Upward Bound and TRIO Talent Search.

The Department of Education states that "The President's 2007 Budget continues the successful pro-growth policies that have encouraged robust economic growth and job creation. A strong economy, together with spending restraint, is critical to reducing the deficit. The Budget builds on last year's successful spending restraint by again holding the growth of overall discretionary spending below inflation, proposing to reduce non-security discretionary spending below the previous year's level, and calling for the elimination or reduction of programs not getting results or not fulfilling essential priorities."

Some key increases in the FY07 budget include:

- \$380 million in new funding to improve math and science instruction in K-12 schools as part of the President's new American Competitiveness Initiative;
- \$1.5 billion for a renewed High School Reform proposal designed to extend NCLB principles to the high school level;
- \$35 million of new funding for the President's multi-agency National Security Language Initiative;
- \$100 million of new funding for the America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids, which would provide educational options for low-income students attending schools identified for restructuring under NCLB; and
- \$200 million in new Title I School Improvement Grants to help states turn around schools and LEA's identified for improvement or restructuring.

HIGH SCHOOL REFORM USURPS PERKINS FUNDING

Much like last year, the President's budget proposal eliminates the federal investment in Perkins in order to fund a \$1.5 billion high school reform initiative

that would extend No Child Left Behind to high schools through improved testing and programs. The proposal will fund assessments in language arts and math, as well as support intervention programs. While the specifics of where all of the money will go are not specified, related increases include:

- \$70.3 million for the Striving Readers program, for a total of \$100 million to expand the development and implementation of literacy interventions;
- \$8 million to increase the number of states implementing the State Scholars program; and
- \$60 million to provide grants to low-income, high-achieving postsecondary students who are majoring in mathematics, science, technology, engineering or critical foreign languages. .

WHY ELIMINATE PERKINS... AGAIN?

The Administration's rationale for these cuts is clarified on White House's Office of Management and Budget website [here](#).

"The Administration is requesting no funding for current Vocational Education programs. The Administration's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process rated Vocational Education State Grants as Ineffective because the program has produced little or no evidence of improved outcomes for students despite decades of Federal investment. In particular, the latest full-scale evaluation of the program, the National Assessment of Vocational Education published in June 2004, found no evidence that high school vocational courses themselves contribute to academic achievement or college enrollment."

A point of interest is that of the 48 education programs proposed for elimination in the Administration's budget proposal for FY06, the Congress ultimately only did away with 5 of the programs.

As previously noted, this justification is flawed, as the National Assessment of Vocational Education (NAVE) data related to CTE's impact on academic achievement and college enrollment was nearly a decade old – before the passage of Perkins III. And the PART review's rating of Perkins was mostly unsupported by research, or relied on opinion rather than fact or data to support the deeming of vocational education ineffective.

The Administration's proposal does note that states and school districts are still allowed to use their own funds for vocational education, tech-prep programs, and other purposes, depending on State and local needs and priorities.

NEXT STEPS??

The President's budget proposal has repeatedly called for the elimination of Perkins funding, naming either the Secondary Technical Education Excellence Act or a High School Reform initiative as the replacement. Congress has

resolutely rejected these recommendations each year, both the elimination of Perkins as well as the reduction in funding. In fact, with both the House and the Senate having overwhelmingly voted to reauthorize Perkins last year, NASDCTEC is optimistic that reauthorization as well as funding will move forward positively in FY07.

CALL TO ACTION

In order to restore funding to Perkins as well as further reauthorization progress, it is critical that the career technical education (CTE) community remain committed to educating the Congress on the importance of CTE. Please contact your legislators and the White House to express your concerns with the President's proposal, noting the impact the elimination of this funding would have on your state's career technical education programs.

For contact Information please visit the following websites: Congress - www.house.gov or www.senate.gov; the Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings - www.ed.gov and the President - www.whitehouse.gov.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Nichole Jackson, Director of Government Relations at NJackson@careertech.org.

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