

Part I: Sequestration & Federal Funding for this Year! (FY 2013)

Question: *Has Congress passed a budget for the rest of this year?*

Answer: Yes. On March 26, the President signed a budget into law for the rest of fiscal year (FY) 2013. That means the federal government is funded and will continue running until Sept. 30, 2013. It is important to point out that the federal fiscal year is different than most school districts. It begins on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30.

Question: *Did the budget include the “sequestration cuts”?*

Answer: Yes. Unfortunately, the federal budget for this year includes a 5% cut to most every education program. The box on the right tells you what this means nationally for IDEA.

Program	5% Cut	Funding for FY13
IDEA Part B	-\$580.0 M	\$10.9 B
IDEA Part C	-\$23.0 M	\$420.4 M
IDEA 619	-\$18.7 M	\$353.9 M
IDEA Part D	-\$12.0 M	\$242.5 M
Special Ed Research	-\$2.5 M	\$47.0 M

Question: *When will my state’s IDEA allocation be cut due to sequestration?*

Answer: July 1, 2013. Every state gets a distribution of federal IDEA money and most other education monies every year on July 1 and October 1. This year, states will receive less in their July 1 disbursement. That reduction is because of sequestration. And, if Congress doesn’t change the law, every state will continue to lose money over the next 9 years due to sequestration.

Question: *How will these cuts impact my school and my school district?*

Answer: Every school district will have to decide how to alter its budget to cover the lost funds. So the best way to find out is contact your district administration and ask.

Question: *When will sequestration cuts end?*

Answer: Not for another 9 years!! Sequestration was included in the Budget Control Act of 2011 and unless Congress changes that law, sequestration cuts of approximately 8% will occur every year for the next 9 years. This will devastate education in our country. We must urge Congress and the Administration to deal with it now.

Part 2: Federal Funding for Next Year! (FY 2014)

Question: *When will the federal budget process begin for next year?*

Answer: It has started already! In the end of March, both the Senate and the House Budget Committees passed their Budget Resolutions. These are blueprints for federal spending in the next year. In the Budget Resolution, the House and Senate only set a total amount that the federal government can spend in any one area – like education. Funding for individual education programs, like IDEA, however, is governed by bills written by the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate, a process which is occurring right now!

Question: *Did the House and Senate Budget Resolutions allocate the same amounts for federal education spending?*

Answer: No. The House and Senate allocated very different amounts for education. The House Budget Resolution included the sequestration cuts and reduced education spending by even more. The Senate Budget Resolution did not include sequestration cuts and it actually increased the amount of funding for education. The problem is the House and Senate must agree on the same funding levels because they can only send one final funding bill to the President for him to sign into law. That means, at some point, they have to agree. Over the past few years finding agreement has been a problem.

2014 Budget Resolutions	
House	Senate
Includes Sequestration Cuts	Does not Include Sequestration Cuts
Cuts Federal Education Programs	Invests in Federal Education Programs
Does not Raise Revenues	Raises Revenue

Question: *What can I do to tell my members of Congress about how my school, district or state effectively uses federal funds to provide children and youth with disabilities the services they deserve under the law?*

Answer:

- Stay informed follow the Policy Insider Blog
- Follow CEC on Twitter - @CECAvocacy
- Send a letter from the CEC Legislative Action Center
- Tell us what is happening in your school, district or state so we can pass on this information in our visits with Congress and the Administration – send an email to CEC's pubpol@cec.sped.org
- Submit a Success Story for CEC's Federal Outlook!

Visit CEC's website for more information

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