

Sequestration: What You Need to Know



Sequestration – automatic across the board cuts will begin on March 1, 2013 unless Congress and the Administration act to stop them!

Why? On August 2, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA), increasing our nation’s debt limit and imposing a series of measures to limit spending and decrease the nation’s debt.

The BCA calls for \$900 million in cuts to discretionary programs, including education, over the next decade. It also created a Joint Select Committee (referred to as the “Supercommittee”) made up of members from the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans charged with finding \$1.2 trillion more in cuts over the next decade. If the Supercommittee failed to identify this savings, or Congress failed to approve the Supercommittee’s recommendation, automatic cuts would impact every federal program not specifically excluded on January 2, 2013.

What now? The Supercommittee failed. Thus, on January 2, 2013 the cuts would have started, but Congress and the Administration passed the American Taxpayer Relief Act (ATRA), which delayed and reduced sequestration for two months. So, NOW sequestration will begin on March 1, 2013, unless Congress and the Administration change the law.

How much? 5.1% This is our estimate based on the estimate from the [Congressional Budget Office](#), the nonpartisan office that advises Congress on the implications of its proposals. The CBO has estimated that sequestration will mean a cut of approximately 8% to all education programs. After the reduction applied because of the delay in ATRA, this number is roughly 5.1%.

Programs Excluded from BCA’s Across the Board Cuts (Sequestration):

Social Security, Medicaid, CHIP, Food Stamps, Child Nutrition, Veterans Benefits, certain tax credits, Federal retirement benefits, and Medicare up to a capped amount.

Expected Cuts Starting March 1, 2013*:

US Department of Education CUT by **\$2.5 Billion**

Title I CUT by **\$750 Million**

IDEA Part B Grants to states CUT by **\$600 Million**

Bottom Line: This will impact every school in the nation.

What can you do? Join us!! CEC calls on

Congress to consider the potential impact of this across-the-board cut on children and youth, families, professionals and communities before allowing these cuts to deny resources and supports to those who need them most. **Avoid sequester, and further cuts to education, by passing a balanced deficit reduction measure.**

Want to help? Turn Over For a List of CEC Resources

*Although these cuts will occur on March 1, 2013, the U.S. Department of Education has stated allocations will not be reduced until July, 2013.

Sequestration: How You Can Help - Tell Congress Education Matters!

CEC has several more ways you can learn more and share this information with your community:

- (1) Send a Letter from CEC's Legislative Action Center to your Senators and Representative and tell them these cuts will matter. You can send this directly from CEC's Legislative Action Center on our website at <http://capwiz.com/cek/home/>.
- (2) CEC's *2013 Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children* includes a section devoted to sequestration and its looming impact on students. Go to CEC's Policy & Advocacy page on CEC's website to access this useful publication. http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Policy_and_Advocacy&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=1&ContentID=6183
- (3) Use the powerpoint from CEC's *What's Happening in Washington* session after Convention to share the word with your community. You can find this powerpoint on the CEC website under Policy & Advocacy at http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PolicyAdvocacy/CECPolicyResources/WHIW_2012.pdf
- (4) Read CEC's Policy Insider Blog for the latest information on the Federal Budget: <http://cecblog.typepad.com/policy/>
- (5) Follow CEC's Policy & Advocacy Team on Twitter @cecadvocacy
- (6) Join with CEC's Coalition Partners and use the free advocacy tools and information on the Committee for Education Funding's website. Tell Congress that you oppose these cuts. <http://cef.org/>