



Keeping Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act

S 1172/HR 2315

What it Does:

- ***Creates a 10-year "glide path" with equal percentage increases annually to fully fund both the Elementary and Secondary Education Act's Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.***
- ***Makes funding for Title I and IDEA mandatory to ensure that students are a clear priority in the federal budget.***
- ***Begins to repay the average annual shortfall of \$55 billion in federal funding that has harmed vulnerable students for more than 40 years.***
- ***Increases appropriations over the next decade to reach each law's promised amount.***
- ***Provides relief from a growing federal mandate that states and districts must make up annually, since funding for IDEA services is required no matter the level of federal investment.***

Why it matters:

If Title I were fully funded by Congress, the nation's high-poverty schools could provide:

- ***Health and mental health services for every student, including dental and vision services;***
- ***A full-time nurse for every Title I school;***
- ***A full-time librarian for every Title I school; and***
- ***Either an additional full-time counselor for every Title I school, or a full-time teaching assistant in every Title I classroom.***

For more than 50 years, the United States has claimed to provide equal public education to all students, regardless of background or identity. But, in fact, as income and wealth inequality have grown and become more entrenched, low-income students, students of color and students with disabilities have systematically and continuously been deprived of the resources that more-privileged students take for granted. Now, when many states have yet to restore full funding to the pre-downturn levels of 2008 and the nation is facing a growing teacher shortage, Congress has an opportunity to invest responsibly to secure the futures of our nation's most vulnerable students.

What Congress Promised:

In 1965, the federal government passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act), which sought to address the need for additional resources for schools in economically deprived communities. The legislation recommended that the federal government provide additional funding for low-income students, at a level up to 40 percent on top of average per-pupil state spending. That commitment, known as Title I, has been underfunded every year.

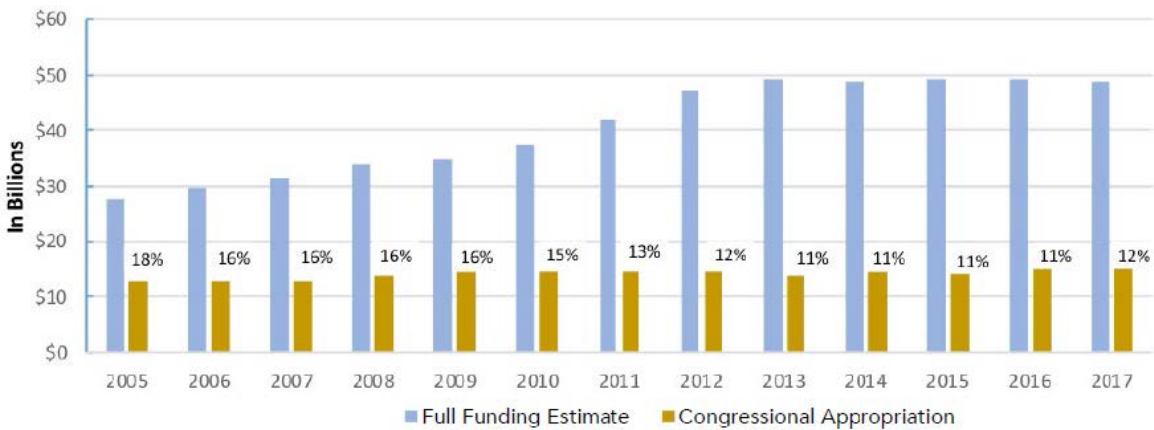
The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community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

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY-TREASURER

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

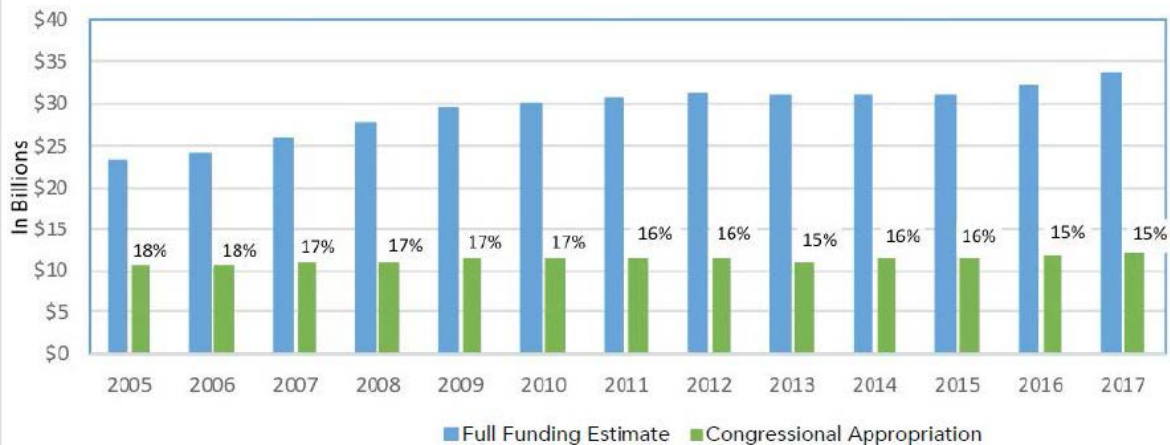
Title I Full Funding (40% Estimate) vs. Actual Appropriation



Source: Original research conducted by the Education Policy and Practice Department, Center for Great Public Schools, National Education Association. February, 2018. See methodology notes at educationdebt.reclaimourschools.org.

In 1975, Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which requires schools to provide students with disabilities with the supports they need in school. IDEA assumes that, on average, the cost of educating a child with disabilities is twice the cost of educating a non-disabled student, and Congress pledged that the federal government would pay up to 40 percent of this cost. That commitment also has never been met. States and districts still must pay the rest.

IDEA Full Funding (40%) vs. Actual Appropriation



Source: Original research conducted by the Education Policy and Practice Department, Center for Great Public Schools, National Education Association. February, 2018. See methodology notes at educationdebt.reclaimourschools.org.

What You Can Do: Write to your member of congress asking them to co-sponsor the Keeping our PACT Act: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/keep-our-pact-and-fund-our-future>