

FY26 Federal Budget & Higher Education: What's at Risk for Students, Families, and Communities

The FY26 House education funding proposal includes both cuts and freezes across programs that directly affect students, families, and schools serving low-income communities and students of color. Some programs that support higher ed access like Pell Grants see small increases or are maintained, while others, like CCAMPIS, which allows for on-campus child care for student-parents, are eliminated. Here are highlights the most important changes and their potential impact:

Program / Area	FY26 Proposal	Impact
Pell Grants	Max \$6,335 discretionary (\$7,395 total), level funded	Level funds the primary grant for students from low-income backgrounds
Postsecondary Student Success Grant Program (PSSG)	\$45M to \$0	Eliminates funding for evidence-based student success programs
Childcare Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS)	\$75M to \$0	Eliminates funding for on-campus childcare for student-parents
Supplemental Equal Opportunity Grants	\$910M to \$0	Eliminates funding for the lowest income college students in America
Hawkins Centers of Excellence	\$15M, level funded	Level funds programs to train teachers at HBCUs and MSIs
Office of Civil Rights	\$91M, cut down from \$140M	Cuts funding to the office that enforces civil rights
Federal Work Study	\$779M, cut down from \$1.23B	Cuts funding for students to work while enrolled

Call to Action

Advocates, families, and community leaders can make a difference by raising their voices with Congress, sharing the impacts in their communities, and demanding that funding for Pell Grants and other equity-focused programs be protected. Now is the time to act to ensure that every student has the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.