



Support.
Learn.
Achieve.

2012 FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

The current deficit requires hard choices. But it is imperative that we protect programs that are effectively narrowing the achievement gap and keeping students on track toward college and careers.

About Elev8

Elev8 initiatives in Baltimore, Chicago, New Mexico and Oakland are engaging schools, families, and other community partners to ensure that students succeed in school and beyond. Elev8 is a flexible, full-service community school model that focuses on middle-grade youth in low-income areas. The initiatives are built on core elements that research has found to be essential for supporting achievement and success, including extended-day learning opportunities, school-based health care, and vital resources for families. These elements are carefully integrated to make wise use of resources and effectively support students' academic achievement, creating positive changes throughout schools and fostering safer, healthier communities.

A decade ago, the US led the world in college completion; 10 countries have now surpassed us.¹ Nearly 1 out of 10 teens is not attending school or working, and 1 in 5 children lives below the poverty line.² Effective education and support programs not only provide the opportunity for young people to thrive academically, they also *reduce long-term* costs (on social spending, corrections, healthcare, etc.). Funding these programs will keep the US competitive, reduce future spending and make a critical investment in our future workforce.³ We urge Congress to include the following vital programs and recommended funding levels in the FY 2012 budget.

Education

- Investing in Innovation— FY 2012: \$300 million (FY 2011: \$149.7 million)
 - Promise Neighborhoods— FY 2012: \$150 million (FY 2011: \$30 million)
 - GEAR Up— FY 2012: \$323.2 million (FY 2011: \$302.8 million)
 - Grants to Local Education Agencies for Indian Education— FY 2012: \$104.3 million (FY 2011: \$104.1 million) and Indian Education— FY 2012: \$795.6 million (FY 2011: \$752.7 million)⁴
- Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies— FY 2012: \$14.8 billion (FY 2011: \$14.5 billion)
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers— FY 2012: \$1.3 billion (FY 2011: \$1.2 billion)
 - Successful, Safe, and Healthy Students— FY 2012: \$365 million (FY 2011: N/A)

Health

Compelling evidence has shown that healthier students miss fewer days and perform better in school.⁵ Improving access to healthcare is a critical strategy for boosting youth outcomes.

- Medicaid— FY 2012: \$276.2 billion (FY 2011: \$276.2 billion)
- Children's Health Insurance Program— FY 2012: \$10.0 billion (FY 2011: \$9.2 billion)
- School-Based Health Centers— FY 2012: \$50 million (FY 2011: \$50 million)⁶
- Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)— FY 2012: \$75 million (FY 2011: \$75 million)

Nutrition

According to the USDA, more than 16 million American children live in “food insecure” homes. Research has clearly shown that poor nutrition has a negative impact on children’s academic and cognitive abilities.⁷

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)— FY 2012: \$73.2 billion (FY 2011: \$65.2 billion)
- School Breakfast Program— FY 2012: \$3.3 billion (FY 2011: \$3.1 billion)
- School Lunch Program— FY 2012: \$10.9 billion (FY 2011: \$10.0 billion)
- Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children

- (WIC): FY 2012: \$7.4 billion (FY 2011: \$6.7 billion)

Social Services

Approximately 23 million children live in families where no one has a full-time, year-round job.⁸ Providing a safety net for these families is vitally important.

- Community Services Block Grant— FY 2012: \$701.6 million (FY 2011: \$701.6 million)
- Social Services Block Grant— FY 2012: \$1.8 billion (FY 2011: \$1.8 billion)
- TANF— FY 2012: \$17.7 billion (FY 2011: \$17.4 billion)

We urge you to reject cuts to these vital programs. They are essential for narrowing the achievement gap and giving all young people the opportunity to succeed. These investments are, in fact, critical for charting a fiscally responsible trajectory, reducing long-term spending, and growing our nation’s workforce and economy.

Notes

1. Department of Education, A Blueprint for Reform: The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, March 2010.
2. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Book, 2011.
3. It is estimated that every high school graduate produces a benefit to the public of more than \$200,000. See Levin et al. 2007.
4. Elev8 NM schools serve a large number of Native American students. These funds provide vital support to two of these schools: The Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque and the school serving the Laguna Pueblo.
5. Charles Basch, *Healthier Students Are Better Learners: A Missing Link in School Reforms to Close the Achievement Gap*, Columbia University, March 2010.
6. During the 2010-2011 school year, there were nearly 28,000 visits to Elev8’s School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs). Surveys of students in Elev8 schools show that SBHCs allow them to *receive services sooner* and to access information and resources that would otherwise be unavailable.
7. Alaimo K, Olson CM, Frongillo E. “Food insufficiency and American school-aged children’s cognitive, academic and psychosocial development.” *Pediatrics*. 2001.
8. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Book, 2011.

For more information, please visit www.elev8kids.org.