

Action Item - 29

Board of Education Meeting Date: 2/27/2025

Title: Opposing Proposed Federal Cuts to Reduce Funding For K-12 Schools and The Programs That Serve Our Most Vulnerable Children – Added 2.25.2025/Updated 2.27.2025

Description:

WHEREAS, our nation's public schools serve an essential purpose and role in providing a free education to all children, creating safe and supportive environment for students, and preparing those enrolled to be successful and productive members of society;

WHEREAS, providing federal funding for our nation's children and the elementary and secondary schools that serve them is one of the most important functions of Congress;

WHEREAS, the federal funding provided by Congress is targeted to support our nation's most vulnerable children to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn, thrive, and reach their full potential;

WHEREAS, our public schools rely on the federal funding to provide vital and essential educational, nutritional, and basic health services to all students, particularly those with the greatest needs, including students from low-income families, English language learners, and students with disabilities;

WHEREAS, federal Medicaid funding plays a crucial role in supporting our public schools and the well-being of our children by assisting with a portion of the cost of providing basic health services to eligible children from low-income families and assisting with the cost of providing education-related services such as speech therapy and physical therapy for eligible students with disabilities;

WHEREAS, federal Child Nutrition Programs provide reimbursements to school districts for serving nutritious meals in schools so all children are ready to learn;

WHEREAS, federal funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act helps school districts provide essential instructional services, including Title I grants, to help low-income students and schools in the poorest neighborhoods, Title II grants to address teacher shortages and pay for teacher training, and Title III grants to help students learn English;

WHEREAS, congressional leaders are considering block granting federal education funding, a practice which historically has been used to reduce federal investments in education, cut funding to beneficiaries, and eliminate funding targeted to vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an FY 2025 Budget Resolution that would reduce funding for Medicaid and Child Nutrition Programs over ten years;

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives approved an FY 2025 Appropriations Bill that included a 25% cut to Title I, and eliminated all funding for the Title II and Title III programs;

WHEREAS, the loss of these federal funds will have an enormous impact on all of our nation's elementary and secondary school students, particularly those from low-income families, English language learners, and students with disabilities who attend high-poverty schools that have historically been underfunded;

WHEREAS; the impact of these federal funding cuts would be approximately \$82.2 million for The School District of Philadelphia;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The School District of Philadelphia opposes the education cuts being proposed by the U.S. House of Representatives that would reduce funding for K-12 schools and the programs that serve our most vulnerable children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The School District of Philadelphia calls on members of the U.S. Senate to vote NO on any measure that includes:

- Cuts to Medicaid that will negatively impact basic health and educational services for low-income children and students with disabilities;
- Changes to school meal eligibility under the Child Nutrition Programs;
- Reductions in education funding for Title I, Title II, or Title III programs; or
- Block granting of education funding.

Office Originating Request:
Board of Education