

## Federal Funding: Budget & Appropriations



When it comes to the federal fiscal year (FY), we are currently in FY16, which runs from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. FY16 dollars will be in your schools for the 2016–17 school year. When you go to the Hill, you will be talking about FY17 appropriations, which will take effect this coming October and will reflect the dollars in your schools for the first year of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation.

**FY16 Appropriations:** Both the House and Senate had advanced legislative proposals that would have eliminated at least 12 programs at the U.S. Department of Education (USED) and included fiscal cuts exceeding those of the sequester. Those proposals were scrapped, though, and the final FY16 deal was part of a two-year negotiation (covering both FY16 and FY17) achieved by former House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and President Barack Obama. The two-year deal raised the annual federal appropriations cap above the sequester level and avoided a government shutdown. It provided funding increases for a handful of programs. As a point of reference (indicated in the first chart on the next page), the share of discretionary dollars at USED for FY16 is above that of FY12 (the last year before the sequester cuts) but below those of FY10.

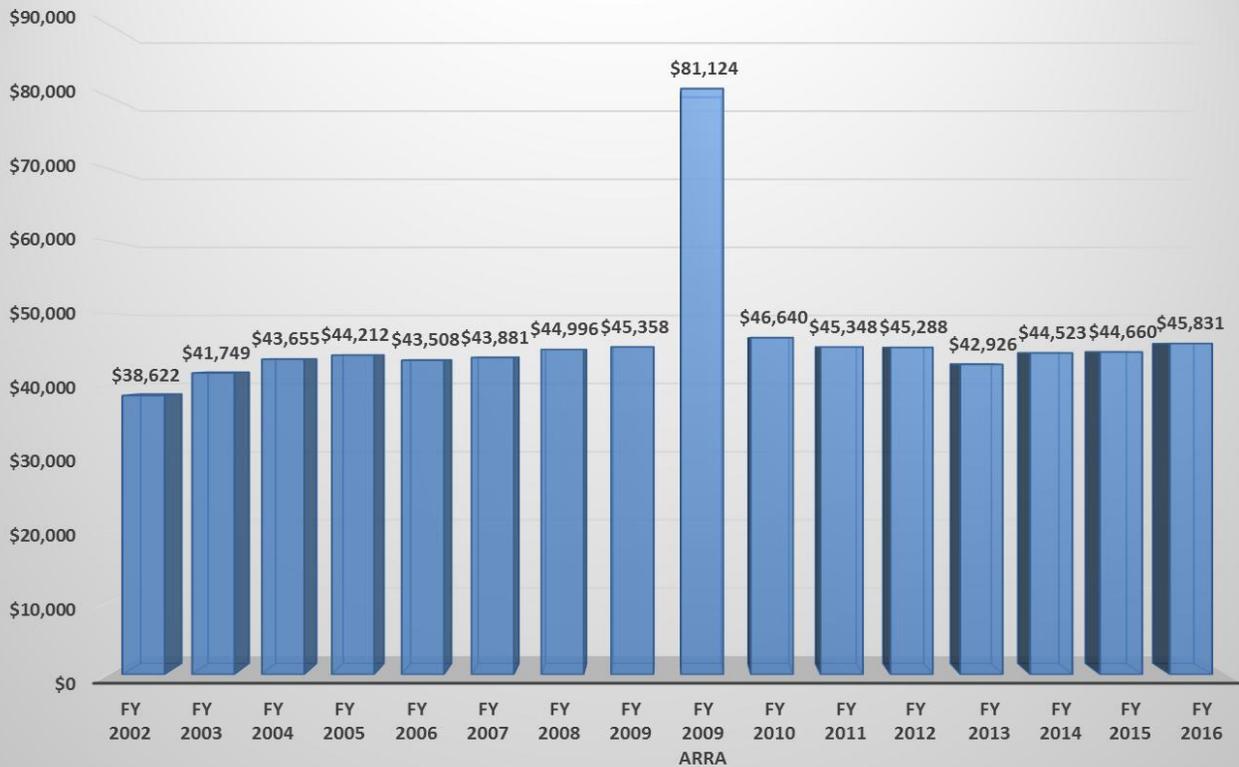
**FY17 Appropriations:** The House and Senate Committees have each advanced funding proposals for FY17 that give us deep pause. FY17 is the second year of the two-year budget cap negotiated as Speaker Boehner left office. While it included funding increases for FY16, it is level funding for FY17, which proves problematic when some programs receive mandatory increases and when National Institutes of Health (NIH) has strong bipartisan and bicameral support for funding increases (in our slice of the “pie”). AESA is particularly focused on ESSA program funding, as FY17 is the first year of funding for the newly reauthorized law and will be the benchmark against which we defend future proposals.

### Talking Points:

- Thank your Congressional delegation for its work to avoid the federal shutdown at the end of 2015 and for the funding increases for FY16; education was not fully restored, and key federal K–12 programs remain below where they were in FY10 (adjusted for inflation).
- Urge your Senators and Representatives to work to ensure continued robust investment in education. Education cuts don’t heal.
- Specific to FY17:
  - Fund Title I at a level \$450 million above President Obama’s proposed level. Title I must be funded at a robust enough level to ensure at least level funding for district allocations. ESSA includes an increase in the state set aside and lifts the Title I “hold harmless” provision, meaning that even with the \$450 million rollover from SIG, the Title I allocation (as proposed by the President) leaves a \$200 million shortfall at the local level.
  - IDEA Funding: Congress must continue to increase its investment in IDEA. Adjusted for inflation, the current proposals—the President, the Senate, and the House—remain woefully underfunded, coming nowhere near Congress’ commitment to providing 40% of the additional cost associated with education students with disabilities. In fact, the current proposals put the federal share at roughly 16%, which is less than half of what Congress committed to, and below FY10 levels when adjusted for inflation.
  - AESA is are deeply concerned with the low allocation to the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG, Title IV-A) and any effort to revert the program to a competitive allocation. Title IV of ESSA must be allocated at a level that supports meaningful formula allocation.
- Urge your Senators and Representatives to support efforts to permanently resolve sequestration and ensure parity between defense and non-defense discretionary dollars.

## Total ED Discretionary Funding Excluding Pell

in millions



## NDD Spending Caps

