

House Appropriations Committee “ZERO’S OUT” EETT Funding

The House Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY07 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations bill, which includes no funding for the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program. Despite the infusion of an additional \$4.1 billion over the President’s request for Labor, HHS and Education funding and a fierce campaign from the education technology community, House appropriators opted to eliminate EETT and slash spending on the Teacher Quality block grant by 10%. Owing to the approval by the full Committee of a provision to raise the minimum wage and continued dissatisfaction with funding levels, House leaders have deferred floor consideration of this spending bill until at least mid-July.

EETT was the largest program elimination in the Department of Education, however, the Title IIA, Teacher Quality block grant also received a \$300 million cut. This move is particularly interesting because the Administration has continued to justify its EETT cuts by stating that schools could make use of Title IIA funding, which the House bill would now cut.

Overall, most education programs received only level-funding or small increases in this tight budget year -- including Title I, IDEA, Reading First and even Vocational Education -- by taking funds from Title IIA and EETT. This smart strategy avoids upsetting members in the same way as last year’s bill did by deleting favorites such as Vocational Education or the TRIO and GEAR-UP programs, all of which received funding in this bill.

While the House appropriations process appears stalled, the Senate appropriations process is just getting started. Recently, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved overall FY 07 spending numbers for each subcommittee. The Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees all education programs including EETT, received \$5 billion above the White House’s request, which is still \$2 billion short of the amount that Subcommittee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-PA) and Ranking Member Tom Harkin (D-IA) are seeking. Chairman Specter plans to move forward with his own version of a FY07 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations bill in mid to late July.

The following is a quick review of funding levels approved in by House appropriators:

Funding FY06	FY07 Budget Request	House Subcommittee	Approved
Title I	\$12.7 billion	\$12.7 billion	\$12.7 billion
Teacher Quality	\$2.9 billion	\$2.9 billion	\$2.9 billion
EETT	\$272.3	\$0	\$0
Reading First	\$1.029 billion	\$1.029 billion	\$1.029 billion
Innovative Programs, Title V	\$99 million	\$99 million	\$150 million
State Data Program	\$24.8 million	\$54.5 million	\$35 million

Funding FY06	FY07 Budget Request	House Subcommittee	Approved
Star Schools	\$14.9 million	\$0	\$0
Ready to Teach	\$10.9 million	\$0	\$0
High School Reform	\$0	\$1.475 billion	\$0
Math Now Programs	\$0	\$250 million	\$0
Math/Science Partnerships	\$182 million	\$182 million	\$225 million