

Sequestration: What You Need to Know



On August 2, 2011, President Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA), increasing our nation's debt limit and imposing a series of measures to limit spending and decrease the nation's debt.

The BCA calls for \$900 million in cuts to discretionary programs, including education, over the next decade. It also created a Joint Select Committee (referred to as the "Supercommittee") made up of members from the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans charged with finding \$1.2 trillion more in cuts over the next decade. If the Supercommittee failed to identify this savings, or Congress failed to approve the Supercommittee's recommendation, automatic cuts would impact every federal program not specifically excluded on January 1, 2013.

The Supercommittee failed, and now sequestration will begin, unless Congress and the Administration change the law. At the time of publication, several members of the House of Representatives have proposed a bill that would prohibit sequestration from impacting Department of Defense programs, but there has not been any similar legislation proposed to address education.

The [Congressional Budget Office](#), the nonpartisan office that advises Congress on the implications of its proposals has estimated that sequestration will mean a cut of approximately 8% to all education programs. This means

Expected Cuts Starting January 1, 2013:

IDEA Part B Grants to States CUT by **\$903 Million**

IDEA Part B Section 619 Program CUT by **\$29 Million**

IDEA Part C Infants & Toddlers CUT by **\$35 Million**

IDEA Part D National Programs CUT by **\$19 Million**

Special Education Research CUT by **\$4 Million**

CEC calls on Congress to consider the potential impact of this across-the-board cut on children and youth, families, professionals and communities before allowing these cuts to deny resources and supports to those who need them most. Avoid a sequester by passing a balanced deficit reduction measure.

Programs Excluded from BCA's Across the Board Cuts (Sequestration):

Social Security, Medicaid, CHIP, Food Stamps, Child Nutrition, Veterans Benefits, certain tax credits, Federal retirement benefits, and Medicare up to a capped amount.

that the entire U.S. Department of Education's budget will be reduced by approximately \$3.5 billion.

These cuts will be felt by every single school in the nation and will impact educators' abilities to serve children and youth with disabilities appropriately. Furthermore, they come at a time when other cuts have made it impossible to not reduce essential services.

Want to help? Turn Over For a List of CEC Resources

Sequestration: How You Can Help - Tell Congress Education Matters!



CEC has several ways you can learn more and share this information with your community:

- (1) Send a Letter from CEC's Legislative Action Center to your Senators and Representative and tell them these cuts will matter. You can send this directly from CEC's Legislative Action Center on our website at <http://capwiz.com/cek/home/> or visit the LAC live in CEC Central at the CEC Convention!
- (2) CEC's *2013 Federal Outlook for Exceptional Children* includes a section devoted to sequestration and its looming impact on students. Go to CEC's Policy & Advocacy page on CEC's website to access this useful publication. http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Policy_and_Advocacy&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=1&ContentID=6183
- (3) Attend CEC Policy & Advocacy's *What's Happening in Washington* Session Friday, April 13 at 8am at CEC's Convention.
- (4) Use the powerpoint from CEC's *What's Happening in Washington* session after Convention to share the word with your community. Find this powerpoint, after Convention on the CEC website under Policy & Advocacy.
- (5) Read CEC's Policy Insider Blog for the latest information on the Federal Budget: <http://cecblog.typepad.com/policy/>
- (6) Follow CEC's Policy & Advocacy Team on Twitter @cecadvocacy
- (7) Join with CEC's Coalition Partners and Sign a Petition on the Committee for Education Funding's website telling Congress that you oppose these cuts. <http://cef.org/>