

ProLiteracy Policy Update



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Proposed Fiscal 2006 Budget Cuts State Grants by 63%

I. President's Proposed Fiscal 2006 Budget

On February 6, the President submitted his proposed fiscal 2006 budget to Congress. The budget calls for a 63% reduction in state grants for adult basic education and literacy from a current budget of \$569.7 million to \$200 million.

The proposed budget also calls for level funding for the National Institute for Literacy and National Leadership Activities, but zeroes out funding for Even Start. The following chart and explanation are excerpted from the Department of Education's Web site:

Adult Education (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) (in millions)

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 Request |
|---|---------|---------|--------------|
| Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants | \$574.4 | \$569.7 | \$200.0 |
| National Institute for Literacy | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| National Leadership Activities | 9.2 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Total | 590.2 | 585.4 | 215.7 |

“The Administration requests \$200 million for **Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants**, with the expectation that new authorizing legislation will be enacted in 2006. This request is consistent with the Administration's goal of decreasing funding for programs with limited impact or for which there is little or no evidence of effectiveness. A Program Assessment Rating Tool analysis of the program carried out as part of the fiscal year 2004 budget process produced a Results Not Demonstrated rating. The program was found to have a modest impact on adult literacy, skill attainment, and job placement, but data quality problems and the lack of a national evaluation made it difficult to assess the program's effectiveness. The request for state grants includes level funding for the English Language and Civics Education grants, which enable states experiencing high levels of immigration to respond to the specialized educational needs of the immigrant/limited English proficient population.

“The request includes \$6.6 million for the **National Institute for Literacy**, with the expectation that new authorizing legislation will continue support for its communication, capacity-building, and policy analysis activities. In addition, the budget provides \$9.1 million for **National Leadership Activities** to continue support for national evaluations, technical assistance to states on program accountability and effectiveness, and development and dissemination of staff development and training models to improve teaching.”

(<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget06/summary/edlite-section2c.html>)

II. WIA Update

In other news, the House of Representatives introduced Workforce Investment Act reauthorization legislation (H.R. 27) in January. The bill is similar, but not identical, to the bill

that was introduced by the House during the 108th Congress, but not acted upon. The Senate is expected to introduce its own WIA reauthorization bill soon. Once the Senate has introduced its bill, a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences. Our sources indicate that this will not happen until sometime in the summer.