



FOR RELEASE
April 9, 2001

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**PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST WOULD BRING \$390.7 MILLION IN
EDUCATION FUNDING TO ARKANSAS**

Arkansas will receive a \$25 million increase over FY 2001

President Bush's first budget request delivered to the Congress today calls for an increase in federal funding for the Education Department that is a greater percentage increase than any other federal domestic Department. The 11.5 percent increase would inject an additional \$4.6 billion into the Education Department for fiscal year 2002. At the program level, the increase would be 5.9 percent or \$2.5 billion.

"Combined with the rigorous accountability system and increased flexibility at the core of his No Child Left Behind plan, the President's investment in education will provide much-needed assistance for disadvantaged students who have for too long been left behind," said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige of the President's budget request. "The President's budget strengthens and reforms public elementary and secondary education while providing the Education Department with the largest percentage spending increase of any domestic Cabinet agency."

The President's budget request includes major increases in several Education Department programs including the following increases nationwide:

- \$1 billion more for special education grants to States to provide assistance to students with disabilities;
- \$1 billion more for Pell Grants to provide disadvantaged students with financial assistance for higher education;

- \$614 million more for Reading First State grants to ensure that every American child can read;
- \$459 million more for Title I grants to Local Education Agencies to assist low performing schools and disadvantaged students;
- \$375 million more for State grants for improving teacher quality;
- \$320 million to help States develop and implement annual state reading and math assessments to measure the performance of all students every year in grades 3-8;
- \$175 million for a new Charter School Homestead Fund to expand parental options; and
- \$137 million more for public school buildings serving military bases and Native American lands.

Arkansas schools and students in particular will benefit from increases in the President's budget request for the following education priorities:

Arkansas Programs	FY2000 Appropriation (dollars in millions)	FY2001 Appropriation (dollars in millions)	FY2002 Request (dollars in millions)
ESEA Title I – Grants to Local Educational Agencies	\$80.4	\$84.0	\$87.2
ESEA Title I – Reading First State Grants*	\$0	\$0	\$8.7
State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality* **	\$0	\$0	\$24.2
Special Education – Grants to States	\$46.9	\$59.2	\$68.3
Federal Pell Grants to disadvantaged students for higher education	\$83.1	\$96.2	\$100.2
Overall funding for Arkansas in President's request	\$321.7	\$366.1	\$390.7
<i>Note: ESEA refers to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act</i>			

In addition to his commitment to the Education Department, the President's budget will provide other federal agencies with a \$490 million increase to support other education initiatives, including after school programs and efforts to train and recruit math and science teachers.

Both houses of Congress have passed budget resolutions that closely reflect the President's budget priorities. The Congressional appropriations hearing process for allocating 2002 resources will begin when the Members of Congress return to Washington, D.C. after the April recess.

"I look forward to the appropriations process," Paige said, "and to the continuing debate on No Child Left Behind, the President's comprehensive proposal for reforming our system of public education through high standards, annual assessment, accountability, expanded parental choice and flexibility and local control for States like Arkansas."

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NOTE: Additional materials related to the President's budget request are located online at www.ed.gov.

- * Preliminary estimates pending completion of action reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- ** Reflects consolidation of existing Education Department programs.