

Strengthening the Pell Grant Program

Increasing the Maximum Award

In 1980, the maximum Pell Grant award [covered](#) 76 percent of the cost of attendance at a public university.¹ Today, it covers just over 29 percent, the [lowest](#) portion in over 40 years.² Pell's purchasing power will further decrease with the expiration of automatic inflation adjustments in 2018.

- For FY19, the maximum Pell Grant award should be increased to at least \$6,230.
- Congress should restore the mandatory adjustment for inflation and set an ambitious plan to reverse the downward trend of Pell's purchasing power.

Restoring Pell Eligibility to Students Who Are Incarcerated

[Research](#) shows that correctional education programs reduce the rate of recidivism by 43 percent, increase the rate of employment after release by 13 percent, and are [associated](#) with fewer violent incidents in participating prisons.³ These programs result in net savings to taxpayers and are significantly more cost efficient than incarceration alone. There are also significant intergenerational benefits for the more than [5 million children](#) with a parent who is or has been incarcerated.⁴

- Congress should strike paragraph 6 of section 401(b) in the Higher Education Act and restore Pell eligibility to students who are incarcerated and in high-quality programs that support students toward a degree.

Supporting Teachers and School Leaders

Maintain funding for Title II-A (Supporting Effective Instruction), the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSLIP), and the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) program

- Congress should fund Title II-A, TSLIP, and SEED at their FY18 levels: \$2.055B, \$200M, and \$75M, respectively.

Restore Funding for the School Leader Recruitment and Support Program

The School Leader Recruitment and Support Program is the only federal program focused on investing in evidence-based, locally driven strategies to strengthen school leadership in high-need schools. This program is key to developing the next generation of effective school leaders, promoting equity, advancing innovation, and sharing transformational leadership lessons with the broader field.

- For FY19, Congress should fund the School Leader Recruitment and Support Program at \$14.5M, its FY17 level.

1. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/09/28/lets-make-sure-pell-grants-arent-eroded-by-inflation/?utm_term=.91fe4ee20dc3&nooredirect=on 2. https://edtrust.org/press_release/letter-309-organizations-congressional-leadership-index-pell-grants-inflation-indefinitely/ 3. https://www.bja.gov/publications/rand_correctional-education-meta-analysis.pdf https://storage.googleapis.com/vera-web-assets/downloads/Publications/postsecondary-education-in-prison-fact-sheet-for-correction-leaders/legacy_downloads/postsecondary-education-in-prisonfactsheet-for-corrections-leaders.pdf 4. <http://www.childtrends.org/?publications=parents-behind-bars-what-happens-to-their-children>