

January 2010

FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Overview of K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs



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United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

January 27, 2010

The Honorable John P. Kline
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
House of Representatives

The Honorable John Linder
House of Representatives

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
House of Representatives

The federal government invests in the education of children, in part, to help ensure that the United States has a well-educated and skilled workforce to compete in the global marketplace. The federal government accounts for about nine percent of the total investment in K-12 education, with state and local sources covering the rest. Over the last two decades there have been a number of efforts to catalogue and determine how much is spent on federal education programs. However, because education programs are administered by agencies throughout the federal government, and there is no standard definition of a federal education program, there currently is no single source that legislators and policymakers can refer to for an accounting of federal education programs. To address your interest in these issues, we answered the following questions: (1) What is the federal expenditure on K-12 and early childhood education programs? (2) What are the characteristics of these programs? (3) To what extent have these programs completed evaluations?

We briefed your staff on the results of our analysis on August 25, 2009, and this report formally conveys the information provided during that briefing. See appendix I for the briefing slides and appendix II for a list of all the federal K-12 and early childhood education programs identified through our study. In summary, we reported the following findings:

- The federal government provided an estimated \$166.9 billion over the 3-year period from fiscal years 2006-2008—for an average of \$55.6 billion per year—to administer 151 different federal K-12 and early childhood education programs.

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- Federal K-12 and early childhood education programs have a variety of goals, although serving disadvantaged populations was cited most frequently by survey respondents.
 - Agencies reported that 65 of the 151 programs have completed program evaluations. In addition, of the 20 programs with the largest funding amounts, representing 90 percent of fiscal year 2006–2008 funding, 12 reported performing program evaluations, and 3 reported evaluations under way.

In February 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)¹ was enacted to, among other things, promote economic recovery, provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency, and minimize and avoid reductions in state and local government services. Because the Recovery Act provided substantial funding for education, we reviewed it to identify K-12 and early childhood education programs that received funding at the Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, and we confirmed our findings with each of the agencies. Our review focused on these agencies because they administered more than 90 percent of all fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2008 federal K-12 and early childhood education funding identified in our study. The Recovery Act provided about \$85 billion in discretionary funding for 14 existing and 3 new K-12 and early childhood education programs through a one-time fiscal stimulus package (see app. III). Some of these funds can also be used for postsecondary education and non-education purposes. About \$48.6 billion of the funding Education received through the Recovery Act is to be distributed to states through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF). The Recovery Act specifies that about 82 percent of SFSF funds distributed to states must be used for support of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education and, as applicable, early childhood education programs, and about 18 percent—or \$8.8 billion—must be used for public safety and other government services, which may include educational purposes. Over 93 percent of the

¹Pub. L. No. 111-5.

\$85 billion in discretionary funding was provided for K-12 and early childhood education programs administered by the Department of Education.²

We used the following methodologies to develop our findings. We worked with officials from the Department of Education (Education), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and several other federal agencies to develop a standard definition and criteria to identify relevant K-12 and early childhood education programs. For purposes of this study, we developed a standard definition and criteria to identify relevant K-12 and early childhood education programs:

- “Federal education program” refers to *any activity authorized by Congress designed primarily to address and improve K-12 education or early childhood education.*

Federal K-12 and early childhood education programs are those that meet the following criteria:

- have a primary focus on any level of K-12 or early childhood education,
- emphasis of program’s objectives is enhancing student learning through school activities and curricula, and
- K-12 or early childhood students or teachers are the main beneficiaries of the program.

Developing a single definition for the wide variety of federally funded K-12 and early childhood education programs is challenging, particularly in the context of ensuring that officials across agencies understand the definition and apply it consistently when completing our questionnaire. A broader definition than the one we developed would result in a larger list of programs, but the connection that some programs have to education may not be apparent. For example, our definition excludes food nutrition and infrastructure programs, which provide billions of dollars to schools but do not directly achieve the objectives of enhancing student learning

²See also GAO, *Recovery Act: As Initial Implementation Unfolds in States and Localities, Continued Attention to Accountability Issues is Essential*, [GAO-09-580](#) (Washington, D.C.: Apr. 23, 2009), as well as <http://www.gao.recovery/> for more details. GAO will provide additional information on the use of Recovery Act funds for education in its ongoing bimonthly reviews.

through school activities and curricula. Creating a single definition for federal education programs is also challenging because some education programs provide funding for noneducation purposes. For example, in addition to providing funding for education, the Head Start program provides funding for health, nutritional, and social services to young children enrolled in the program. In appendix II we list all of the federal K-12 and early childhood education programs identified through our study as well as the funding amounts for each program from 2006 through 2008. These funding amounts reflect the total appropriated budget authority for each program, although some portion of the funding may be used for purposes other than K-12 and early childhood education, as is the case with Head Start.

We developed a preliminary list of K-12 and early childhood education programs that met our definition and criteria based on reviews of the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* and Department of Education program lists. We contacted all 15 executive branch agencies and 10 independent federal agencies outside the cabinet departments to verify the accuracy and completeness of our preliminary list of programs. Of the 25 federal agencies we contacted, 20 indicated that they had K-12 and early childhood education programs meeting our definition and criteria. Finally, we used a Web-based survey to obtain information about the 229 programs confirmed by each agency and received a 100 percent response rate. After reviewing survey responses for these 229 programs, we identified 151 programs that met our definition and criteria and received federal funding in at least one of the three fiscal years included in our analysis, fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008.³ The practical difficulties of conducting any survey may introduce nonsampling errors. For example, differences in how a particular question is interpreted, the reliability of data self-reported by agency officials, and the extent to which questions are not answered can introduce unwanted variability in the survey results. We took steps in the development of the questionnaires, the data collection, and the data editing and analysis to minimize nonsampling errors. For example, we pretested the questionnaire with officials at six agencies to refine the

³Based on this review, we excluded 78 programs from our analysis because they (1) did not fully meet the definition and criteria; (2) did not receive funding in any of the fiscal years included in our review; (3) were initially identified by agency officials as a stand-alone program, but were ultimately categorized by agency officials as a project under the umbrella of a larger federal education program within the agency; or (4) were duplicate programs.

survey instrument, and we contacted individual respondents, if necessary, to clarify answers.

Our findings offer a snapshot that captures information on programs funded over the 3-year period from fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2008. Some of the programs identified through our study may no longer receive funding, and new programs are not reflected in this study, such as those funded in fiscal year 2009. With regard to program evaluations, we did not assess the rigor of the evaluations that agency officials reported were conducted for federal education programs. Our finding on program evaluations is based on agency officials' responses to a survey question that did not limit or stipulate the types of evaluations that could have been included.⁴

We conducted our work from October 2007 to January 2010, in accordance with all sections of GAO's Quality Assurance Framework that are relevant to our objectives. The framework requires that we plan and perform the engagement to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence to meet our stated objectives and to discuss any limitations in our work. We believe that the information and data obtained, and the analysis conducted, provide a reasonable basis for any findings and conclusions in this product.

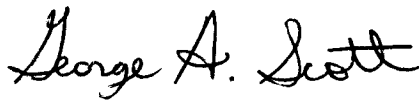
We provided copies of a draft of this report to Education and OMB for review and comment. In written comments, Education acknowledged the inherent challenges associated with compiling an inventory of federal education programs, and commended GAO for taking steps to obtain an accurate count of federal K-12 and early childhood education programs. Education said the report appears to be a significant improvement over previous efforts to catalogue federal education programs, but expressed concern that based on the methodological limitations disclosed in the draft, the report may not provide an accurate "snapshot" of federal activity in K-12 and early childhood education programs. We appreciate Education's concerns. Absent a standard definition of federal education program or central tracking of these programs, efforts to catalogue such

⁴Our survey asked agency officials to report whether a program evaluation had been completed and, if so, to describe the key findings from that evaluation. The types of evaluations reported by agency officials varied across agencies. For example, some agency officials reported that an external review of their program was completed by contractors, while other agency officials noted that their program underwent an evaluation using the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART).

programs will be subject to the methodological limitations we discuss in the report. However, based on the specific actions we took to mitigate these limitations, including working closely with Education and OMB to develop a standard definition and criteria, pretesting the survey, and following up with each agency to ensure that the information provided in response to our survey was accurate, we believe this report provides a comprehensive listing of federal K-12 and early childhood education programs. Education's comments appear in appendix IV. Both Education and OMB provided technical comments, which we incorporated as appropriate.

As agreed with your offices, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 30 days from its issue date. At that time, we will send copies of this report to relevant congressional committees, the Secretary of Education, and other interested parties. In addition, the report will be available at no charge on the GAO Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staff have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 512-7215 or scottg@gao.gov. Contact points for our Offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. Key contributors to this report include Debra Prescott, Assistant Director; Nicholas Larson, Analyst-in-Charge; Melissa Jaynes; Luann Moy; Jennifer Huynh; Kathleen Van Gelder; and James M. Rebbe.



George A. Scott
Director, Education, Workforce, and
Income Security Issues

Appendix I: Briefing Slides



FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING Overview of K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs

**Briefing for the Ranking Member, House of
Representatives, Committee on Education and
Labor, and Representatives
John Linder and Buck McKeon**



Briefing Overview

- Introduction
- Research Objectives
- Scope and Methodology
- Summary of Findings
- Background
- Findings



Introduction

- The federal government has an interest in investing in the education of children to establish a well-educated and skilled workforce that will enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace.
- Over the last two decades, there have been a number of efforts to catalogue and identify the extent of expenditures on federal education programs, but a number of challenges make doing so difficult.
 - Education programs are administered by agencies throughout the federal government.
 - There is no standard definition of a federal education program across the federal government.
- As a result of these challenges, there is currently no single source that legislators and policymakers can refer to that provides an accounting of federal education programs.



Research Objectives

- (1) What is the federal expenditure on K-12 and early childhood education programs?
- (2) What are the characteristics of these programs?
- (3) To what extent have these programs completed evaluations?

Scope and Methodology



Scope and Methodology

To answer our research objectives, we developed a standard definition and criteria to identify relevant K-12 and early childhood education programs:

- “Federal education program” refers to any activity authorized by Congress designed primarily to address and improve K-12 education or early childhood education.
- Federal K-12 and early childhood education programs are those that meet the following criteria:
 - (1) have a primary focus on any level of K-12 or early childhood education,
 - (2) emphasis of program’s objectives is enhancing student learning through school activities and curricula, and
 - (3) K-12 or early childhood students or teachers are the main beneficiaries of the program.

Scope and Methodology



Scope and Methodology (cont'd)

To address our research objectives, we:

- Developed a preliminary list of K-12 and early childhood education programs that met our definition and criteria based on reviews of the *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* and Department of Education program lists.
- Contacted 25 federal agencies, including all 15 executive branch agencies and 10 independent federal agencies outside the cabinet departments, to verify the accuracy and completeness of the preliminary list of programs.
- Surveyed the 20 federal agencies that indicated that they had K-12 and early childhood education programs meeting our definition and criteria. We used a Web-based survey to obtain information about the programs confirmed by each agency, and received an overall survey response rate of 100 percent.¹

¹We received completed survey responses for 229 programs. After reviewing survey responses for these 229 programs, we found 151 programs received federal funding for FY 2006, FY 2007, or FY 2008 and met our definition and criteria for a K-12 or early childhood education program.

Scope and Methodology



Study Limitations

- Complicating factors in obtaining a comprehensive account of federal education programs include:
 - education programs are administered by agencies throughout the federal government,
 - agencies lack a uniform definition of an education program, and
 - many programs involving education may also serve noneducation purposes.
- Survey data may contain nonsampling errors because respondents may have difficulty interpreting questions or they may not respond at all, which can produce unwanted variability in the survey results.

Scope and Methodology



Study Limitations (cont'd)

- Our survey captured information on programs funded over the 3-year period from fiscal years 2006-2008:
 - Some of these programs did not receive funding in fiscal year 2009.
 - Survey data contain some estimated funding amounts.
- Survey data include self-reported information on program evaluations, but we did not assess the rigor of these program evaluations.



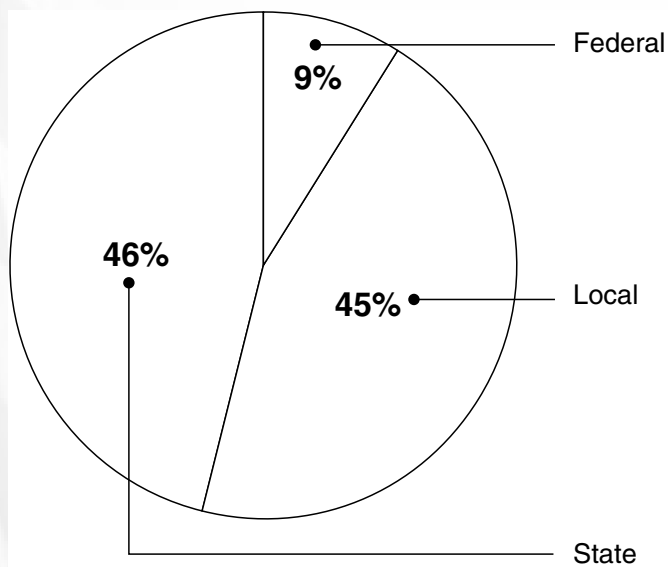
Summary of Findings

- The federal government provided an estimated \$166.9 billion over the 3-year period from fiscal years 2006-2008—for an average of \$55.6 billion per year—to administer 151 different federal K-12 and early childhood education programs.
- Federal K-12 and early childhood education programs have a variety of goals, although serving disadvantaged populations was cited most frequently by survey respondents.
- Agencies reported that 65 of the 151 programs have completed program evaluations. Of the 20 programs with the largest reported funding amounts, representing 90 percent of fiscal year 2006–2008 funding, 12 reported performing program evaluations, and 3 reported evaluations under way.

Background



The Federal Share of K-12 Education Funding Is Small Relative to State and Local Sources



Source: Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Common Core of Data*.

Objective 1: Federal Expenditure



Estimated Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Funding, Fiscal Years 2006-2008

	2006	2007	2008	Total
Estimated funding (dollars in billions)	\$54.3	\$55.5	\$57.1	\$166.9
Number of programs	140	143	147	151 ^a

Source: GAO analysis of GAO survey data.

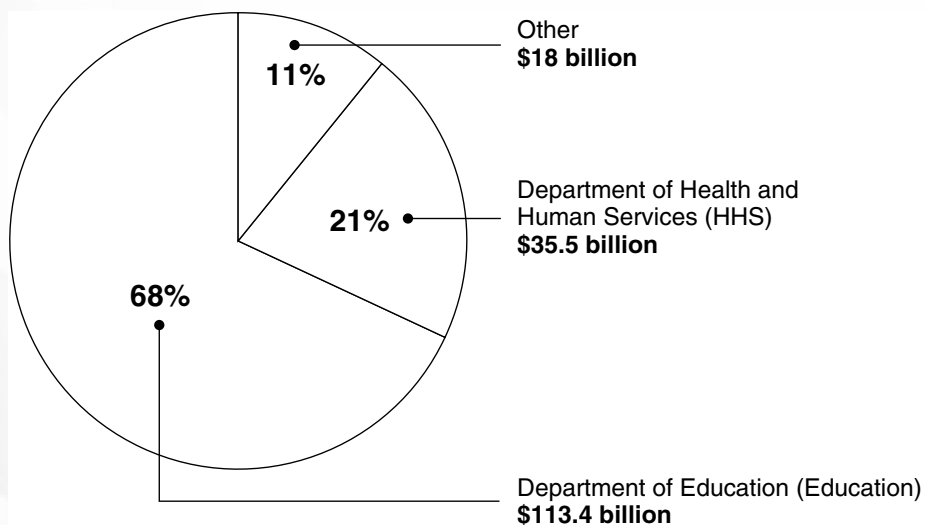
^aTotal number of programs includes an unduplicated count of programs that received funding in at least one year during fiscal years 2006-2008.

Objective 1: Federal Expenditure



Two Agencies Administered Almost All Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Funding

FY 2006 – FY 2008

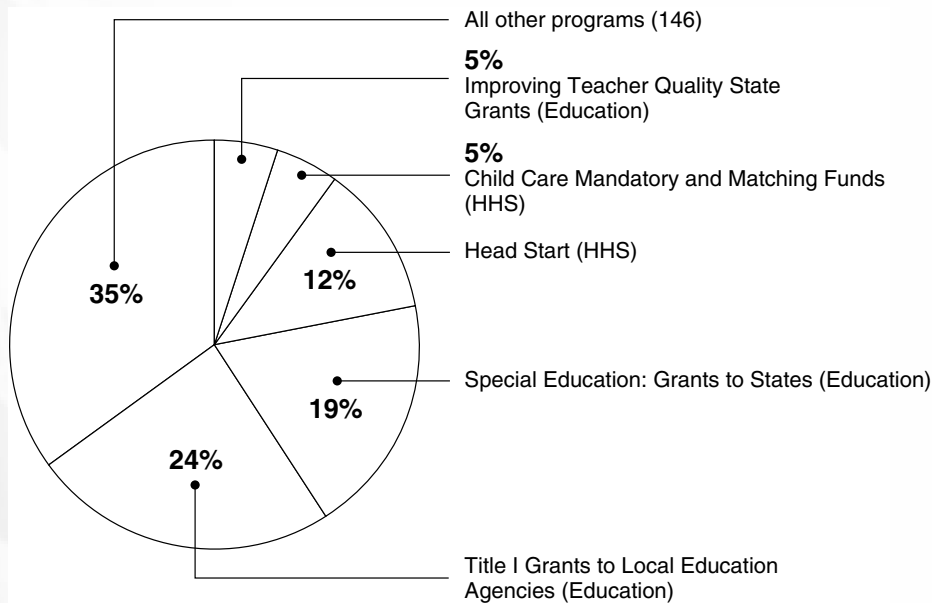


Source: GAO analysis of GAO survey data.

Objective 1: Federal Expenditure



Five Programs Accounted for About Two-thirds of Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Funding



Source: GAO analysis of GAO survey data.

Objective 1: Federal Expenditure

Five Programs Accounted for About Two-thirds of Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Funding (cont'd)

- Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Department of Education)**—provides grants to help students meet state standards through assistance for individual children deemed most in need, or a school wide approach to improve the overall instructional program. This program received about \$39.5 billion for fiscal years 2006–2008.
 - Special Education: Grants to States (Department of Education)**—provides grants to assist states in providing special education and related services to children with disabilities. This program received about \$32.3 billion for fiscal years 2006–2008.
 - Head Start (Department of Health and Human Services)**—provides grants to promote school readiness for low-income preschool children through educational, health, nutrition, social, emotional, and family services. This program received about \$19.9 billion for fiscal years 2006–2008.
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Objective 1: Federal Expenditure



Five Programs Accounted for About Two-thirds of Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Funding (cont'd)

•Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds of the Child Care and Development Fund (Department of Health and Human Services) –

provides grants to states and tribes to help low-income, working families pay for child care so that parents can work, or pursue an education or attend training. A portion of the funds support activities to improve the quality and availability of care. This program received an estimated \$8.8 billion for fiscal years 2006–2008.

•Improving Teacher Quality State Grants (Department of Education) –

provides grants to state educational agencies and local educational agencies to develop and support a high-quality teaching force through activities that strengthen the skills and knowledge of teachers, enabling them to improve student achievement in core academic subjects. This program received about \$8.7 billion for fiscal years 2006–2008.

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Objective 2: Program Characteristics



Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs Had a Variety of Goals, but Serving Disadvantaged Populations Was Most Often Cited

Program goal or mission	Fiscal years 2006-2008 ^a	
	Number of programs	Estimated percentage of funding
Serving disadvantaged populations	106	96%
Classroom instruction for K-12 students	102	67%
Teacher education and training	100	65%
Parental involvement	51	68%
Childcare and instruction for preschoolers	29	28%
Technology improvements	26	9%

Source: GAO analysis of GAO survey data.

^aThe number of programs and percentage of funds do not equal the total number of programs or total amount of funding because programs may have more than one goal or mission.

Objective 2: Program Characteristics



Most Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs Are Grant Programs

- Agencies reported that, 111 of the 151 programs, representing about 91 percent of fiscal year 2006-2008 funding, are grant programs.
 - For example, the Department of Labor's YouthBuild program provides grants to local governments, universities, and private nonprofits that provide job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth ages 16-24. Youth split their time between construction sites and the classroom where they earn a GED or high school diploma.
- States and local school districts were the most common allowable grant recipients.²
 - States: 65 grant programs or about \$122 billion.
 - Local school districts: 57 programs or about \$72 billion.
 - Agencies reported that other recipients (i.e., universities, local governments, schools, and private entities) were each considered allowable recipients for approximately 15 percent of program funds.

²Respondents could identify multiple allowable grant recipients.

Objective 3: Extent of Evaluations



Agencies Reported That Some Programs Have Completed Evaluations

- Agencies reported that program evaluations had been completed for 65 of 151 programs, and those 65 programs represent about 63 percent of fiscal year 2006-2008 funding.
 - Of those programs that conducted evaluations, 47 took place in the 5-year period ending in 2008.
 - In addition, agencies reported that 20 programs are in the process of conducting evaluations.
- The Department of Education and Health and Human Services reported the highest rates of completed program evaluations.
 - Education reported that 33 of 77 programs have completed evaluations, representing about 56 percent of its funding over the 3-year period.
 - HHS reported that 8 of 14 programs have completed evaluations, representing about 99 percent of its funding over the 3-year period.
- Of the 20 programs with the largest reported allocations, representing 90 percent of fiscal year 2006–2008 funding, 12 reported performing program evaluations, and 3 reported evaluations under way.

Appendix II: Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs Funded in Fiscal Years 2006–2008 by Agency

Dollars in thousands			
Program name ^a	Funding ^b		
	2006	2007	2008
Christopher Columbus Foundation			
1. Christopher Columbus Awards	\$441	\$463	\$250
Corporation for National and Community Service			
2. Learn and Serve America: School and Community Based Programs	37,125	37,125	37,459
Department of Agriculture			
3. 4-H Youth Development Program	67,039	69,892	68,078
4. CSREES Education Programs-Formula Funds	6,500	10,500	10,500
5. Conservation Education	6,800	6,800	6,800
6. Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom	990	990	983
7. Agriculture in the Classroom	856	0	553
Department of Commerce			
8. Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET)	7,000	4,200	9,700
Department of Defense			
9. Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA)	1,580,510	1,565,203	1,624,499
10. Child Development System (CDS)	446,000	439,000	775,000
11. Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps	308,000	325,000	347,000
12. Supplemental to Impact Aid	42,000	43,000	35,000
13. STARBASE Program	16,972	17,979	20,230
Department of Education			
14. Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	12,713,125	12,838,125	13,898,97
15. Special Education: Grants to States	10,582,961	10,782,961	10,947,511
16. Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	2,887,439	2,887,439	2,935,248
17. Career and Technical Education State Grants	1,182,388	1,181,553	1,160,911
18. Impact Aid-Basic Support Payments	1,091,867	1,091,867	1,105,535
19. Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	981,166	981,166	1,081,166
20. English Language Acquisition State Grants	669,007	669,007	700,395
21. Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants	563,975	563,975	554,122
22. School Improvement Grants	0	125,000	491,265
23. Special Education-Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities	436,400	436,400	435,654
24. Reading First State Grants	1,029,234	1,029,234	393,012
25. Migrant Education Program	386,524	386,524	379,771
26. Special Education-Preschool Grants	380,751	380,751	374,099
27. TRIO Upward Bound (part of TRIO)	310,413	314,169	359,036

**Appendix II: Federal K-12 and Early
Childhood Education Programs Funded in
Fiscal Years 2006–2008 by Agency**

Dollars in thousands			
Program name ^a	Funding ^b		
	2006	2007	2008
28. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)	303,423	303,423	303,423
29. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants	346,500	346,500	294,759
30. Educational Technology State Grants	272,250	272,250	267,494
31. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs	222,335	230,929	218,632
32. Charter School Program	214,782	214,782	211,032
33. Mathematics and Science Partnerships	182,160	182,160	178,978
34. Rural Education	168,918	168,918	171,854
35. TRIO Talent Search (part of TRIO)	149,628	143,077	142,744
36. Fund for the Improvement of Education: Programs of National Significance	11,668	16,051	121,934
37. Teaching American History	119,790	119,790	117,904
38. Early Reading First	103,118	117,666	112,549
39. Magnet Schools Assistance	106,693	106,693	104,829
40. Tech Prep Education	104,754	104,753	102,923
41. Teacher Incentive Fund	99,000	200	97,270
42. Indian Education-Grants to Local Educational Agencies	95,331	95,331	96,613
43. Special Education: Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities	89,720	89,720	88,153
44. Smaller Learning Communities	93,531	93,531	80,108
45. Physical Education Program	72,674	72,674	75,655
46. William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs	99,000	82,283	66,454
47. Regional Educational Laboratories	66,470	65,470	65,569
48. Education for Homeless Children and Youth	61,871	61,871	64,067
49. Comprehensive Centers	56,257	56,257	57,113
50. Neglected and Delinquent Children	49,797	49,797	48,927
51. Impact Aid: Payments for Children with Disabilities	49,466	49,466	48,602
52. Transition to Teaching	44,484	44,484	43,707
53. Advanced Placement Program	32,175	37,026	43,540
54. Special Education- National activities- Technology and Media Services	38,428	38,428	39,301
55. Parental Information and Resource Centers	39,600	39,600	38,908
56. Arts in Education	35,277	35,277	37,533
57. Striving Readers	29,700	31,870	35,371
58. Teacher Quality Partnership Grants Program	59,895	59,895	33,662
59. Education for Native Hawaiians	33,908	33,907	33,315
60. Alaska Native Education Equity	33,908	33,907	33,315
61. Cooperative Civic Education and Economic Education Exchange Programs	29,111	29,111	31,917

**Appendix II: Federal K-12 and Early
Childhood Education Programs Funded in
Fiscal Years 2006–2008 by Agency**

Dollars in thousands			
Program name ^a	Funding ^b		
	2006	2007	2008
62. Gallaudet University	34,608	32,400	31,436
63. Voluntary Public School Choice	26,278	26,278	25,819
64. Foreign Language Assistance program	21,780	23,780	25,655
65. TEACH Grants	0	0	25,000
66. Ready-To-Learn Television	24,255	24,255	23,831
67. Character Education	24,248	24,248	23,824
68. National Writing Project	21,533	21,533	23,581
69. Special Education: State Personnel Development Grants	50,146	0	22,598
70. Literacy through School Libraries	19,486	19,486	19,145
71. Special programs for Indian children	19,399	19,399	19,060
72. Migrant Education- High School Equivalency Program	18,550	18,550	18,226
73. DC Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP)	13,860	13,860	14,800
74. School Leadership	14,731	14,731	14,474
75. Troops to Teachers	14,645	14,645	14,389
76. Special Olympics Education Programs	0	0	11,790
77. Ready to Teach	10,890	10,890	10,700
78. Advanced Credentialing	16,695	16,695	9,649
79. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Grant Program	9,596	7,596	7,463
80. Training and Advisory Services	7,113	7,113	6,989
81. Territories and Freely Associated States Education Grant Program	3,818	3,811	3,811
82. Academies for American History and Civics	1,980	1,980	1,945
83. Women's Educational Equity	2,926	1,879	1,846
84. Excellence in Economic Education	1,473	1,473	1,447
85. Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow: Programs for BA Degrees in STEM or Critical Foreign Languages	0	0	983
86. Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow: Programs for MA Degrees in STEM or Critical Foreign Languages	0	0	983
87. Foundations for Learning	982	982	929
88. State Grants for Innovative Programs	99,000	99,000	0
89. Star Schools	14,850	14,850	0
90. Early Childhood Educator Professional Development	14,549	14,550	0
Department of Energy			
91. EnergySmart Schools Program	0	1,000	2,000
92. Academies Creating Teacher Scientists	1,618	2,320	1,849
93. National Science Bowl	1,383	1,337	1,670

**Appendix II: Federal K-12 and Early
Childhood Education Programs Funded in
Fiscal Years 2006–2008 by Agency**

Dollars in thousands			
Program name ^a	Funding ^b		
	2006	2007	2008
94. QuarkNet	750	750	750
95. Albert Einstein Educator Fellowship	750	745	565
96. Atmospheric Research Measurement (ARM) K-12 Educational & Outreach- Basic Science Awareness	434	400	250
97. Community Partnerships - Educator PD, student research internships	200	165	245
98. Pre-Service Teacher Program	228	194	188
99. Fusion/Plasma Education/ Science Career Communication	125	124	155
100. Plasma Physics Summer Institute and Contemporary Physics Education Project (CPEP)	100	100	125
101. Wonders of Physics Traveling Show	82	52	52
Department of Health and Human Services			
102. Head Start	6,085,972	6,888,571	6,877,975
103. Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds of the Child Care and Development Fund	2,917,000	2,917,000	2,917,000
104. Child Care and Development Block Grant	2,060,664	2,062,081	2,062,081
105. Abstinence Education	163,325	163,400	163,400
106. Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program	28,661	28,681	28,180
107. National Center for Research Resources Science Education Partnership Award	15,980	16,009	16,183
108. Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research	6,000	6,000	6,000
109. Science Education Drug Abuse Partnership Award	2,983	2,516	2,979
110. Reach Out Now - Help Prevent Underage Alcohol Use	1,758	1,309	1,332
111. The Diabetes in Education in Tribal Schools (DETS) K-12 Program	1,400	1,400	1,400
112. NIH Curriculum Supplement Series	799	759	1,996
113. NIAID Science Education Program (R25)	255	57	345
114. National DNA Day	60	60	60
115. SciLife- A Partnership with OSE	8	8	8
Department of Homeland Security			
116. FEMA Ready Kids Campaign	15	386	414
Department of Interior			
117. Indian School Equalization Program (ISEP)	350,062	351,817	358,341
118. Indian Education - Student Transportation	42,738	42,833	47,844
119. Indian Education: Johnson-O'Malley Assistance Grants	16,371	12,000	13,782
120. Family and Child Education (FACE)	12,781	12,067	15,024
121. Education Program Management	8,783	13,595	17,293
122. Public Land Corps	5,621	4,030	4,100
123. Youth Conservation Corps	2,000	2,000	3,000

**Appendix II: Federal K-12 and Early
Childhood Education Programs Funded in
Fiscal Years 2006–2008 by Agency**

Dollars in thousands			
Program name ^a	Funding ^b		
	2006	2007	2008
124. Parks As Classrooms	797	710	710
125. American River Water Education Center (ARWEC)	493	497	575
126. Project Archaeology	55	10	108
127. Project WET Water Education for Teachers	50	50	50
128. Lake Berryessa Water Education Program	2	0	1
129. Education Program Enhancements	0	4,371	12,108
Department of Justice			
130. Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program	20,358	20,064	15,300
Department of Labor			
131. Job Corps	1,557,270	1,578,277	1,570,355
132. Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Formula Program	940,500	940,500	924,069
133. Youth Offender Grants Alternative Expansion program	24,000	26,632	28,493
134. YouthBuild	0	50,000	58,000
Department of Transportation			
135. Aviation and Space Education (AVSED)	0	27	24
Environmental Protection Agency			
136. SunWise Program	760	270	700
James Madison Fellowship Foundation			
137. James Madison Memorial Fellowship	2,500	2,500	0
National Aeronautics and Space Administration			
138. NASA Elementary and Secondary Education Program	10,340	21,594	19,400
139. NASA K-12 Competitive Grants Program	0	0	11,640
National Endowment for the Arts			
140. Learning in the Arts	5,442	5,291	6,748
141. State Partnership Agreement Grant, Arts Education component	2,574	2,496	2,496
142. Shakespeare in American Communities	1,375	1,461	1,493
143. Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest	511	1,516	1,207
144. Jazz in the Schools	0	22	661
National Science Foundation			
145. Discovery Research K-12	94,920	98,160	108,500
146. Math and Science Partnership	63,170	45,950	47,870
147. Informal Science Education	62,650	63,930	66,000
148. Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers	18,449	45,899	28,630
149. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program	8,910	10,300	55,050

Appendix II: Federal K-12 and Early
Childhood Education Programs Funded in
Fiscal Years 2006–2008 by Agency

Dollars in thousands

Program name ^a	Funding ^b		
	2006	2007	2008
United States Institute of Peace			
150. Education and Training Program (National Peace Essay Contest)	270	260	260
151. Education and Training Program (Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers)	\$45	\$40	\$40

Source: GAO survey data.

^aAgencies with K-12 and early childhood programs are listed alphabetically, and individual programs within each agency are listed in descending order based on fiscal year 2008 funding.

^bThe dollar amounts listed contain actual and estimated program funding levels.

Appendix III: Federal K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs Funded through the Recovery Act

Dollars in thousands	
Program name	Funding
	Recovery Act (fiscal year 2009)
Department of Education	
1. State Fiscal Stabilization Fund ^{a, b}	\$48,600,000
2. Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	10,000,000
3. Special Education: Grants to States	11,300,000
4. Race to the Top (Incentive Grants) ^b	4,350,000
5. School Improvement Grants	3,000,000
6. Educational Technology State Grants	650,000
7. Innovation Fund ^b	650,000
8. Special Education-Grants for Infants and Families with Disabilities	500,000
9. Special Education-Preschool Grants	400,000
10. Teacher Incentive Fund	200,000
11. Teacher Quality Partnership Grants Program	100,000
12. Education for Homeless Children and Youth	70,000
Department of Health and Human Services	
13. Head Start	2,100,000
14. Child Care and Development Block Grant	2,000,000
Department of Labor	
15. Workforce Investment Act Youth Formula Program	1,200,000
16. Job Corps	250,000
17. YouthBuild	\$50,000

Sources: GAO analysis of the Recovery Act as verified by the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor.

^aNew program created through Recovery Act funding.

^bSome of these funds can be used for postsecondary education and noneducation purposes. Specifically, the Recovery Act specifies that about 82 percent of SFSF funds distributed to states must be used for support of elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education and, as applicable, early childhood education programs, and about 18 percent—or \$8.8 billion—must be used for public safety and other government services, which may include educational purposes.

Appendix IV: Comments from the Department of Education



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF PLANNING, EVALUATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

December 23, 2009

Mr. George A. Scott, Director
Education, Workforce, and
Income Security Issues
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Scott:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) draft report, *Federal Education Funding: Overview of K-12 and Early Childhood Education Programs* (GAO-10-51).

This report provides a listing, compiled from a survey of Federal staff, of Federal programs in the area of early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and includes information on their funding levels and on whether programs have been evaluated. As the report acknowledges, compiling an inventory of this nature can be difficult, as staff across agencies can have very different conceptions of what is a Federal education program. Past attempts to assemble an accurate inventory have been problematic. In addition, as the report recognizes, such an inventory typically has limited value even if the information is reported consistently and accurately across programs and agencies, as the number of programs in operation and their funding levels change from year to year.

We commend GAO for taking many steps to obtain an accurate count, such as by discussing program definitions with this Department and by pretesting the survey instrument. The draft report appears to be a significant improvement over previous efforts. Nonetheless, we are not certain that the report provides an accurate "snapshot," based on consistent collection of data, of recent Federal activity in K-12 and early childhood education.

We would be pleased to respond to additional questions or to provide further assistance to GAO in the completion of this report. Should you need additional assistance, please contact Thomas Corwin in the Department's Budget Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmel Martin".

Carmel Martin
Assistant Secretary

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
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