



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

AGENDA

FLISA Summer Meeting

June 23, 2018

The Skirvin Hilton

Breakfast is On Your Own

Meeting begins at 8:30 AM – Crystal Room

Lunch at Noon – Crystal Room

Reception following the meeting – Crystal Room

Our Mission: To secure federal funding which reimburses eligible districts for tax revenue lost (for student programs) due to the federal government's removal of land from the local tax rolls; such revenue to be used for the public education of students.

- I. Introductions – Craig Hutcheson
- II. Paid Membership Roll Call (Tom Gregory)
- III. Meeting Logistics (Tom Madden)
- IV. Executive Director's Report (Tom Madden)
 - A. Brief History Lesson
 - B. Advocacy Action Plan
- V. Present FLISA Video



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- VI. Presentation – Hilary Goldman, NAFIS Executive Director
- VII. Vouchers – Current Status and What we've done and will need to do
- VIII. Panel Discussion – Amy Covert (7002&7003 CA); Jeff Limore (7003 OK); Frank Sheboy (7002 NY)
- IX. Targeted Lobbying – Fall NAFIS Conference (Tom Schneider) - *Panelists will comment on how their respective districts are impacted by the presence of the federal government and the need they have for impact aid funding*
- X. Continuation of work on the Advocacy Action Plan to a full review and renewal/updating
 - A. Committee Chairs provide a brief update to the collective group on Committee goals and accomplishments to date and highlight specific work session agenda items that will be the focus of Saturday's committee work
 1. Messaging/Tech Committee
 2. Involvement Committee
 3. Reauthorization Committee

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B. Within individual committees:

1. Committees review past work and list accomplishments and goals that have been met
2. Committees continue work on goals, objectives and time lines
3. Committees will report out Saturday afternoon and include steps to be taken prior to the NAFIS Fall Conference

XI. Approval of Minutes from Spring NAFIS Conference (Cassie Bergman)

XII. Treasurer's Report and Approval of the 2018-19 Budget (Tom Gregory)

XIII. NAFIS Update (Sandy Doeber/Tom Schneider)

XIV. Old Business

- A. Report on FRO (Tom Schneider)
- B. Other

XV. New Business

- A. 7002 Issues for Fall NAFIS Conference?
- B. Identify issues with Impact Aid Application and/or Payments?

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C. Other Items

XVI. Information Items

XVII. Future Meeting

A. Winter Meeting – January 4-5, 2019 at the ANDAZ SAN DIEGO (A Hyatt Property), 600 F STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 – Registration/Reservation information will be available at the NAFIS Fall Conference

B. Summer, 2019, Meeting Options

C. *FYI reminder for the future* - The NAFIS Fall

Conference in 2020 will begin on Monday instead of Sunday. Many of us usually arrive on Saturday and depart on Wednesday. For this meeting we will arrive on Sunday and depart for home on Thursday

XVIII. Other Items from Membership

XIX. Review of Mission and Vision to End the Meeting (Craig Hutcheson)

GROUP PHOTO

An Open Letter To FLISA School Districts

It is crucial that we stay active in protecting our schools from the syphoning off of funds which benefit private entities and not children.

We must act now in opposition to the use of Impact Aid for the creation of an Education Savings Account (ESA) for military students.

Although this may sound harmless, military families are not in support of such measures (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2018/04/10/military-groups-to-devos-drop-plan-for-private-school-vouchers-we-dont-want-them/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.22b85073e0f2) and the public education and Impact Aid community see this proposal as a way to use public funds for private vouchers.

If such a proposal were to be put in place it could lead to the eventual syphoning off of all public education funds including FLISA related Impact Aid (Federal Lands).

The leaders of many military impacted schools have never been more united in their opposition to a school -related measure. They believe that this is a serious threat to the schools which serve our military families and it is our duty to help them.

So, I'm asking for you to join in helping our country's military families (and eventually our own Federal Properties school districts) and opposing the elimination of Impact Aid funds for a voucher program which doesn't work and military families don't want.

Making your voice heard is easy, simply ask your Senators and Representatives to oppose this effort. It can be done quickly by simply clicking the "votervoice" link below. I know that our military families appreciate your support, as well as the entire impact aid community.

<https://www.votervoice.net/NAFIS/Campaigns/55322/Respond>

Tom Madden
Executive Director, FLISA



New Research:
Despite Great
Enthusiasm for
Personalized Learning,



Exclusive: Poll Shows
Nearly Two-Thirds of
Americans Would
Support Supreme

News

No Vote in the House for Proposal on Military Education Savings Accounts, Closing the Door on Last Likely Federal Choice Proposal This Congress



May 23, 2018

By CAROLYN PHENICIE



Carolyn Phenicie is a senior writer at The 74 based in Washington, D.C., covering federal policy, Congress, and the Education Department.

on [carolyn.phenicie@the74.com](#)

on [@cphenicie](#)

The House will not vote on a proposal to provide education savings accounts to some military families, cutting off one of the last likely routes for a Republican victory on school choice issues ahead of the midterm elections.

Rep. Jim Banks, Republican of Indiana, had offered the proposal as an amendment to the annual defense policy bill. The House Rules Committee did not include it in a package of amendments the full House will vote on Wednesday and Thursday before passing the defense bill.



Podcast [@RepJimBanks](#) joined [@PatricePinkFile](#) [@IWV](#) to explain his legislation to create Education Savings Accounts geared toward creating [#schoolchoice](#) for military families. [#IWWed](#) [#IWpol](#) [ESA](#) [bit.ly/2Lkswcx](#)

10:58 AM - May 22, 2018

11 See IWV's other Tweets

There are few other must-pass bills left on the congressional calendar ahead of contentious midterm elections. Democrats, expected to pick up seats in and possibly retake control of the House, will have increasing leverage as elections approach. They would have little reason to give Republicans a policy victory on any issue, including private school choice.

Banks's amendment, which he also introduced as stand-alone legislation, would provide either \$4,500 or \$2,500 for some military families, depending on where they lived, to use for private school tuition, tutoring, or other educational expenses. He proposed paying for it with Impact Aid, a \$1.4 billion program that funds the education of "federally connected" children, like those whose parents are in the military. Opponents had said taking funds from Impact Aid could upset school district budgets, effectively harming some of the same students the proposal aims to help.



RELATED

Hard Battle Lines Drawn as Congress Considers Using \$1.4B in Federal 'Impact Aid' to Expand School Choice for Military Families

Advocates for the Banks proposal took a big hit Tuesday when Education Secretary Betsy DeVos testified before the House Education and the Workforce Committee. A fervent backer of all school choice, DeVos said that although she backs the proposal, the Trump administration doesn't support paying for it with Impact Aid.

"I support the concept of giving military families more options and choices, but the vehicle of using an Impact Aid funding stream is not one that I support and that the administration supports," she said.

TALKING POINTS

[@RulesReps](#) doesn't allow vote on [@RepJimBanks](#) military ESA proposal in defense bill, likely closing off [#schoolchoice](#) votes in Congress for rest of year



RELATED

From School Safety to Discipline Guidance: 9 Subjects DeVos Addressed in Wide-Ranging First Appearance Before House Ed Committee

She and Banks, who was recently added to the Education Committee, had a back-and-forth about the merits of education savings accounts, particularly for military families.

Military families shouldn't have to decide between serving their country and getting a good education for their children, DeVos said.

"We need to be sensitive to military families' needs, and we have to, I think, support the fact that we have invested much into these individuals to help them become highly trained and capable ... To lose individuals prematurely because they are not able to make education choices for their children that work for their children, I think, is just a travesty," she said.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is meeting behind closed doors this week to consider their version of the defense bill. Republican Sens. Ben Sasse and Tim Scott, who sit on the Armed Services Committee, have sponsored a companion ESA bill. Attaching the language to the Senate's version of the defense bill would be even more difficult, given the closer partisan divide and chamber rules that make it more arduous to amend legislation on the floor.



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SCHOOL CHOICE

Dismal Voucher Results Surprise Researchers as DeVos Era Begins

By Kevin Carey

Feb. 23, 2017

The confirmation of Betsy DeVos as secretary of education was a signal moment for the school choice movement. For the first time, the nation's highest education official is someone fully committed to making school vouchers and other market-oriented policies the centerpiece of education reform.

But even as school choice is poised to go national, a wave of new research has emerged suggesting that private school vouchers may harm students who receive them. The results are startling — the worst in the history of the field, researchers say.

While many policy ideas have murky origins, vouchers emerged fully formed from a single, brilliant essay published in 1955 by Milton Friedman, the free-market godfather later to be awarded a Nobel Prize in Economics. Because “a stable and democratic society is impossible without widespread acceptance of some common set of values and without a minimum degree of literacy and knowledge on the part of most citizens,” Mr. Friedman wrote, the government should pay for all children to go to school.

But, he argued, that doesn't mean the government should *run* all the schools. Instead, it could give parents vouchers to pay for “approved educational services” provided by private schools, with the government's role limited to “ensuring that the schools met certain minimum standards.”

The voucher idea sat dormant for years before taking root in a few places, most notably Milwaukee. Yet even as many of Mr. Friedman's other ideas became Republican Party orthodoxy, most national G.O.P. leaders committed themselves to a different theory of

educational improvement: standards, testing and accountability. That movement reached an apex when the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 brought a new focus on tests and standards to nearly every public school nationwide. The law left voucher supporters with crumbs: a small demonstration project in Washington, D.C.

But broad political support for No Child Left Behind proved short-lived. Teachers unions opposed the reforms from the left, while libertarians and states-rights conservatives denounced them from the right. When Republicans took control of more governor's mansions and state legislatures in the 2000s, they expanded vouchers to an unprecedented degree. Three of the largest programs sprang up in Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio, which collectively enroll more than a third of the 178,000 voucher students nationwide.

Most of the new programs heeded Mr. Friedman's original call for the government to enforce “minimum standards” by requiring private schools that accept vouchers to administer standardized state tests. Researchers have used this data to compare voucher students with similar children who took the same tests in public school. Many of the results were released over the last 18 months, while Donald J. Trump was advocating school choice on the campaign trail.

The first results came in late 2015. Researchers examined an Indiana voucher program that had quickly grown to serve tens of thousands of students under Mike Pence, then the state's governor. “In mathematics,” they found, “voucher students who transfer to private schools experienced significant losses in achievement.” They also saw no improvement in reading.

The next results came a few months later, in February, when researchers published a major study of Louisiana's voucher program. Students in the program were predominantly black and from low-income families, and they came from public schools that had received poor ratings from the state department of education, based on test scores. For private schools receiving more applicants than they could enroll, the law required that they admit students via lottery, which allowed the researchers to compare lottery winners with those who stayed in public school.

They found large negative results in both reading and math. Public elementary school students who started at the 50th percentile in math and then used a voucher to transfer to a private school dropped to the 26th percentile in a single year. Results were somewhat better in the second year, but were still well below the starting point.

This is very unusual. When people try to improve education, sometimes they succeed and sometimes they fail. The successes usually register as modest improvements, while the failures generally have no effect at all. It's rare to see efforts to improve test scores having the opposite result. Martin West, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, calls the negative effects in Louisiana "as large as any I've seen in the literature" — not just compared with other voucher studies, but in the history of American education research.

There's always the chance that a single study, no matter how well designed, is an outlier. Studies of older voucher programs in Milwaukee and elsewhere have generally produced mixed results, sometimes finding modest improvements in test scores, but only for some subjects and student groups. Until about a year ago, however, few if any studies had shown vouchers causing test scores to decline drastically.

In June, a third voucher study was released by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a conservative think tank and proponent of school choice. The study, which was financed by the pro-voucher Walton Family Foundation, focused on a large voucher program in Ohio. "Students who use vouchers to attend private schools have fared worse academically compared to their closely matched peers attending public schools," the researchers found. Once again, results were worse in math.

Three consecutive reports, each studying one of the largest new state voucher programs, found that vouchers hurt student learning. Researchers and advocates began a spirited debate about what, exactly, was going on.

Mark Dynarski of the Brookings Institution noted that the performance gap between private and public school students had narrowed significantly over time. He argued that the standards, testing and accountability movement, for all its political shortcomings, was effective. The assumed superiority of private schools may no longer hold.

Some voucher supporters observed that many private schools in Louisiana chose not to accept voucher students, and those that did had recently experienced declining enrollment. Perhaps the participating schools were unusually bad and eager for revenue. But this is another way of saying that exposing young children to the vagaries of private-sector competition is inherently risky. The free market often does a terrible job of providing basic services to the poor — see, for instance, the lack of grocery stores and banks in many low-income neighborhoods. This may also hold for education.

Others have argued that standardized test scores are the wrong measure of school success. It's true that voucher programs in Washington and some others elsewhere, which produced no improvements in test scores, increased the likelihood of students' advancement and graduation from high school. One study of a privately financed voucher program in New York found positive results for college attendance among African-Americans.

But research has also linked higher test scores to a host of positive outcomes later in life. And voucher advocates often cite poor test scores in public schools to justify creating private school vouchers in the first place.

The new voucher studies stand in marked contrast to research findings that well-regulated charter schools in Massachusetts and elsewhere have a strong, positive impact on test scores. But while vouchers and charters are often grouped under the umbrella of "school choice," the best charters tend to be nonprofit public schools, open to all and accountable to public authorities. The less "private" that school choice programs are, the better they seem to work.

The new evidence on vouchers does not seem to have deterred the Trump administration, which has proposed a new \$20 billion voucher program. Secretary DeVos's enthusiasm for vouchers, which have been the primary focus of her philanthropic spending and advocacy, appears to be undiminished.

Kevin Carey directs the education policy program at New America. You can follow him on Twitter at @kevincarey1.

AdChoices >

**Steven Singer, Contributor**

Husband, father, teacher, education advocate

Top 10 Reasons Public Schools Are The BEST Choice For Children, Parents And Communities

10/04/2017 04:20 pm ET | Updated Oct 04, 2017



Everywhere you look today you'll find profits prophets of doom bemoaning the quality of our public school system.

We've got too many failing schools, they say. The only thing to do is to invest in private and privatized institutions – vouchers, charters, ANYTHING but public.

But as education professors Christopher and Sarah Lubienski wrote in their landmark book *The Public School Advantage: Why Public Schools Outperform Private Schools* there's little evidence behind the hype. Public schools are far from perfect, but even given their deficiencies, they have benefits that far outweigh those of privatized schools. Indeed, market-based educational reform, wrote the Lubienskis, is "increasingly a belief system rather than a policy theory."

Privatized schools are sometimes great at boosting standardized test scores, but when it comes to authentic indicators of student learning, they often fall well behind their traditional public school counterparts.

And when you stop to consider things like finances, accountability, self-governance, social justice and life-long learning, then public schools prove themselves to be a much better choice than any privatized system.

Clearly we're speaking in generalities here. Every school – public or privatized – is different. But there is enough commonality to identify certain trends between each type of school to make general conclusions about each category. In short, despite any media or political propaganda to the contrary, public schools come out on top.

Here are the top 10 reasons public schools are the best choice for children, families and communities

1) Public Schools Attract the Best Teachers

When choosing a school for your children, you want them to have the best teachers possible. You want life-long, committed educators – people who entered the profession as a calling, who dedicate their lives to young people.

This is not the case at many charter or private schools. Their teachers often don't have the same high level of education, experience, or commitment. In many states, they aren't required to earn a four-year degree from an accredited college, they routinely have less experience and higher turnover.

Compare that with public schools. With rare exceptions, teachers must have at least one bachelors degree in a specialized education field, and many have masters degrees or more. In addition, teacher turnover is much lower. This is partly because public school teachers usually earn a higher salary than those at privatized schools. (It's still not comparable with professionals in other fields with similar levels of education, but it's better than they get at privatized schools.) In addition they have higher job satisfaction because of increased union membership, which enables greater stability and helps create a safer workplace for teachers and their students.

Think about it. If you were one of the best teachers in the country, wouldn't you want to work where you get the highest salary and benefits? Of course!

2) Public Schools Have a Greater Sense of Community

Most public schools have been around for a long time. They are the heart of the communities they serve. They do so much more than just teach children. They host continuing education courses for adults, extracurricular activities, sporting events, academic clubs, public swimming pools, open libraries, and invite the community for local events, concerts, seminars, etc.

This is rarely the case at privatized schools. Charters and private institutions are often fledgling startups. They're located in rented office spaces, renovated store fronts and other locations chosen more for their cost benefits to investors and not for their efficacy as places of education or community outreach.

Public schools have histories that go back generations. Everyone in the community knows the teachers who work there. Parents often send their kids to the same educators who taught them when they were young. Sometimes this goes back to grandparents and even great grandparents. Older brothers can advise younger sisters what it was like to have this teacher or that principal. The kinds of relationships you get at public school just aren't there at institutions that model themselves on big box stores like WalMart and Target.

3) Public Schools Increase Educational Choice

Privatizers often talk about charters and voucher schools as if they are the only places that offer parents and students choice. It's simply untrue. Many public school districts offer a tremendous amount of alternatives for students living in their neighborhoods. Larger urban districts often have magnet or theme schools. But even beyond that, most schools offer a wide variety of classes and curriculum. Students can take foreign languages, vo-tech, arts and humanities, independent studies, and advanced placement or college credit courses. Students can take advantage of a plethora of services designed to personalize their academic experience to meet their individual needs with special and gifted education, even choosing which teachers are the best fit for their learning styles.

Obviously, these options increase with the degree of wealth in a community, but they prove that increasing choice doesn't have to mean privatization. It means equitable funding.

4) Public Schools Have Greater Diversity

Students learn a lot more than reading, writing and arithmetic in school. They also learn how to deal with different kinds of people – they learn to share this world with other humans from various racial, ethnic, religious, and sexual backgrounds. The more diverse an environment they grow up in, the more well-adjusted they will be for the adult world, and the less racist, sexist and prejudiced they'll probably become.

Public schools are often a sea of diversity. They are the best place to meet the entire spectrum of humanity. On the other hand, charter and voucher schools are routinely segregated and homogenous. Sometimes privatized schools make efforts to fight against this, but you can't make much headway when your entire system is based on sorting out the underprivileged in favor of white, affluent children whose parents can afford tuition (private schools) or poor black but high achieving children (charter schools).

5) Public Schools Are More Fiscally Responsible



Public schools spend their money more wisely than privatized schools. They have to! Their records are an open book. All the spending decisions happen in public view. And the law requires that all expenses must relate to educating children.

Privatized schools rarely do this, and if they do, it's by choice not necessity. They could close their books any day, make whatever decisions they like behind closed doors and layout bundles of cash for their CEOs or investors. Privatized schools are for-profit. Even when they aren't explicitly labeled as such, they usually operate in the same way – cut student services to increase the bottom line. Their explicit goal is to make money off your child – not simply earn a middle class income like public schools. No, they want to get rich off of your dime.

Privatizers buy mansions and yachts with your money. Public school teachers pay off their mortgages. And in the rare instances where public school employees break the law and try to embezzle funds, they are much more likely to be caught because the books are right there for all to see.

6) Public Schools Are More Reliable

When you send your child to most privatized schools, you never really know if it's going to be there tomorrow. Charter schools often close without a moments notice. Private schools declare bankruptcy.

If there's one thing you can be reasonably sure of, it's that your neighborhood public school will still be there. It's been there for decades, sometimes hundreds of years. Charter and voucher schools are often fly-by-night affairs. Public schools are solid bedrock. If public schools close, it's only after considerable public comment and a protracted political process. No one ever shows up to find the local public school chained shut. Not the same at charters or private schools.

7) Public Schools Have Greater Commitment to Students

Charter and vouchers schools don't have to accept your child. Public schools do.

When you enroll in a privatized school, the choice is all up to administrators. Is your child a safe bet? Can they let your little one in without breaking the bank? Will he or she make the school look good with better test scores? Will he or she be easy to educate?

Public schools, on the other hand, have a commitment to educating every child who lives in the district. They even take homeless children. Only under the most extreme circumstances would they expel a young person. No matter who your offspring is, no matter how good or bad a student, public school operators have faith they can help the youngster succeed.

8) You Have Ownership of Public Schools

With privatized schools, you're paying for a business to provide services. Public schools belong to you. In fact, you're the boss.

Public schools are run by your friends, neighbors and co-workers. Privatized schools are most often run by appointed boards of directors who are not beholden to you but to the investors. As education blogger Peter Greene puts it, "The charter is a business, run by people who don't ever have to let you into their board room."

In addition, many public schools go beyond even this level of parental involvement. They more often have PTAs or PTOs. They have advisory councils where elected parents, teachers and community members can work together to advise the school board on important matters like hiring superintendents. If parents and the community want a voice, the public school system is overflowing with options. Ironically, the community rarely has any say over privatized schools and parents can only vote with their feet.

9) Public Schools Provide More Amenities

Public schools routinely offer so much more than privatized schools. At many charter and voucher schools, parents are required to buy supplies for the whole institution. Public schools accept donations and sometimes teachers ask for help, but if parents can't (or won't) send in pencils or tissues, the school provides it *gratis*. And even when the district is cheap in this regard, teachers often make up the difference from their own pockets. It's not right that they have to do so, but they constantly step up for your children.

Moreover, public schools offer a much expanded range of services for your children than privatized schools. Special education and gifted programs are first rate at public schools while often intermittent or nonexistent at privatized schools. And the requirements put on parents at public schools are much lower – less restrictive dress codes, fewer demands on parents' time and they take a greater responsibility for your children.

Heck, private schools rarely even pay for transportation. Public schools offer a free ride via the school bus from home and back again.

10) Public Schools Match or Outperform Privatized Schools

When it comes to academic performance, comparisons all come down to what data you think is indicative of student learning and which factors you exclude. You can find plenty of studies funded by privatizers that unsurprisingly conclude their backers business model is the best. However, when you look at peer reviewed and nonpartisan studies, the story changes.

The Lubienskis, in particular, paint an extremely compelling picture of public school superiority based on numerous complex statistical models including hierarchical linear modeling and multivariate regression. In short, the authors conclude that after accounting for the demographic differences among various school sector populations, traditional public school students outperform those at private schools over time. Students typically enter public schools with much greater degrees of poverty than those entering private schools. As such, public school students start with greater academic deficiencies. Even so, public schools are able to make up for these deficiencies over time more easily than privatized schools. And by fourth grade, public school students actually have greater academic success than their demographically similar peers at private or charter schools. The Lubienskis call it "The Public School Effect."

With all these benefits, you'd think we'd be cheering on our public school system, not denigrating it. However, the failing schools narrative sells a lot of people on privatized alternatives. But it's not fact. It's marketing.

It's time someone explicitly outlined the benefits of our public schools. We could be doing a lot more to help make them even better. But the first step is recognizing what an asset these schools already are.

Public schools, they're what happens when we value children over profit.

What and who are fueling the movement to privatize public education — and why you should care

By Valerie Strauss May 20 [Email the author](#)



(Belga/Out)

This is an important article by author Joanne Barkan about the history of the movement to privatize U.S. public schools, which is now at the heart of the national debate about the future of publicly funded education in this country.

We now have an education secretary, Betsy DeVos, who is admittedly doing everything she can to promote alternatives to traditional publicly funded education. Many state legislatures are helping her with programs using taxpayer money to fund private and religious education. Supporters of America's public education system are concerned about what they say is an assault on the most important civic institution in the country.

In this article, Barkan explains the history and current state of the privatization movement and what may lie ahead for the education system. She is a writer based in New York City and Truro, Mass. Her recent writing has focused on market-based public education reform in the United States, the intervention of private foundations in public policy, and the relationship between philanthropy and democracy.

An earlier version of this article will be included in "The State, Business and Education," edited by Gita Steiner-Khamisi and Alexandra Draxler (London: Edward Elgar Publishing, October 2018).

Death by a Thousand Cuts: The Story of Privatizing Public Education in the USA

By Joanne Barkan

This article is dedicated to Paul Booth, 1943-2018

When champions of market-based reform in the United States look at public education, they see two separate activities — government funding education and government running schools. The first is okay with them; the second is not. Reformers want to replace their *bête noire* — what they call the "monopoly of government-run schools" — with freedom of choice in a competitive market dominated by privately run schools that get government subsidies. Public funding, private management — these four words sum up American-style privatization whether applied to airports, prisons, or elementary and secondary schools. In the last 20 years, the "ed-reform" movement has assembled a mixed bag of players and policies, complicated by alliances of convenience and half-hidden agendas. Donald Trump's election and his choice of zealot privatizer Betsy DeVos as U.S. secretary of education bolstered reformers but has also made more Americans wary.

What follows is a survey of the controversial movement — where it came from, how it grew, and what it has delivered so far to a nation deeply divided by race and class.

The backstory in brief

In the latter decades of the nineteenth century, consensus grew around an expansive vision of education in which government plays a far-reaching role: schooling should be government funded and administered, universal, and compulsory until a certain age. In a nation that was increasingly industrialized and home to new immigrants, citizens expected public schools to accomplish a great deal, including impart general knowledge and practical skills, prepare young people psychologically and socially for self-sufficient adult lives, educate for democratic citizenship, unify a diverse population, and create opportunity for upward mobility. Over time, many Americans came to regard public education as a mainstay of democracy.

The Numbers That Explain Why Teachers Are in Revolt

After a quarter century of steady growth on education spending, a shock to the system.

By Robert Gebeloff

June 4, 2018



A recent demonstration in Raleigh, N.C., over teacher pay and school funding.
Gerry Broome/Associated Press

American teachers are angry.

They have taken to the streets in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado — and more recently in North Carolina. Dissent is building in Louisiana and Nevada, too.

This had a pronounced effect on school staffing, with layoffs hitting many states. Districts cut support staff as well as regular classroom teachers. In North Carolina, the number of teachers is down 5 percent since peaking in 2009, while the number of teaching assistants is 28 percent lower. And teacher pay stagnated nonetheless.

Moreover, the recovery that has lifted the private economy has not quite restored school spending to pre-recession levels, especially in states run by fiscal conservatives determined to hold the line on government spending.

For a system that had experienced nothing but spending growth for a quarter century, the past few years have been a major shock. K-12 pending per pupil rose 26 out of 29 years before 2010, only to tumble three consecutive years at the beginning of this decade.

“Per-pupil spending went up forever,” says Matthew Chingos, director of the Urban Institute’s education policy program.

One reason for the consistent rise was a movement in education to reduce class sizes by adding teachers, and to provide more social services beyond basic instruction. These efforts picked up steam in the 1990s in part in reaction to publication of Jonathan Kozol's "Savage Inequalities," which documented the vast disparities in school spending between wealthy and poor school districts, spurring lawsuits and education reform movements in many states to equalize funding by enlarging the overall pot of education money.

“The book highlighted these hideous inequalities in schooling, where there were 50 kids in a class with pipes that were broken and stuff like that, and there was a very good, earnest push toward increasing equity,” said Marguerite Roza, a research professor and director of the Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University.

Then came a one-two punch to the growth in education spending: The recession worsened financial problems already widespread in many states, and voters began electing conservative governors and legislatures that promised to rein in budget woes with spending cuts.

Almost every state reduced education spending during the recession. But as the national economy recovered, education spending did not return to the historical pattern of steady growth across all states. By 2016, more than half of states controlled by Democrats had restored education spending per pupil to 2009 levels, but the same was true in only 5 of 22 states controlled by Republicans.

Some red states have seen slower growth in state and local revenues, in part because of economic factors but also because of tax cuts. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank, notes that seven states with school funding controversies — Arizona, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina and Oklahoma — cut taxes in recent years.

In Kansas, where conservatives had been particularly aggressive in cutting the size of government, the state Supreme Court recently ruled the school funding system there unconstitutional because it failed to meet state requirements to finance education adequately. Republican lawmakers were further shocked when their handpicked consultant's report tied increased funding to improved outcomes and recommended billions in additional education spending.

On top of fiscal policy decisions, a more fundamental concern is the increasing volatility of state tax revenues, says Bruce Baker, a professor of education at Rutgers University who studies school finance.

States cover about 47 cents of every dollar spent on public education, with a further 45 cents raised locally, mostly through property taxes, and 8 cents coming from the federal government.

Real estate values swing more wildly now than in the past, and traditional wage income has become a decreasing share of the income tax base, making revenue streams less reliable and harder to predict.

The political climate has also made it tougher to overhaul the tax system in any way that could be perceived as a tax increase, whether in good economic times or bad.

It's easy to see why teachers are in the vanguard of the protest. Teacher salaries make up the bulk of education spending — so when education spending stagnates or is cut, teachers feel the pain most directly.

In many of the states spending less on education, average teacher pay has fallen sharply. Nationwide, pay is down 5 percent this decade, to an average of \$58,950 from \$61,804.

But this doesn't necessarily mean administrators are cutting teacher pay. It also, in some states, signifies high teacher turnover, with older, higher-paid teachers retiring and being replaced by younger, lower-paid ones.

Over all, however, the American teaching force is growing more experienced, not less. And federal data shows that teacher pay nationally has fallen in inflation-adjusted terms. Compared with 2007-2008, starting teacher pay is lower, as is average pay for more experienced teachers.

Protests over these cuts have been directed mostly at state capitols, where overall education policy is administered.

Yet in states that have struggled with education funding, local revenues have also played a role, especially in red states. Census data shows that while reductions in state aid were universal during the recession, many blue states — which tend to be wealthier to begin with — still experienced local revenue growth that somewhat mitigated the losses.

Not so in many red states, where schools saw reductions in both state and local funding.

"Many states will cut state aid for schools and then impose limits on property tax increases as part of a broader package pushing for austerity in spending," Mr. Baker said.

Property taxes to fund education have been attacked by both small-government conservatives and by liberals who note the wide disparity in tax bases in wealthy and poorer communities.

Despite the inequity, "local money was the most relatively stable and healthy" revenue source for education, Ms. Roza said, "and so closing that spigot meant it was much harder to fund education from the statehouse."

"Inevitably, state budgets were competing with Medicaid and pensions and higher ed funding," she said, "and so that money could not grow as fast as local money could grow."

The nation's chief educator, Betsy DeVos, recently tweeted a chart depicting the huge increase in education spending plotted against a less than stellar trend line showing student performance: "Test scores continue to stagnate. This is not something we're going to spend our way out of."

Ms. DeVos's critics, however, say there are many factors that could be holding overall test performance down.

And recent studies have found that spending disparities matter: University of Pennsylvania researchers showed the impact of the recession was greater on low-income students, particularly in districts with major budget cuts.

Another paper, by a researcher at Northwestern University, found that students in districts that cut funding the most in the wake of the recession posted lower test scores than peers and were less likely to graduate from high school.

It now seems the pendulum is swinging toward spending growth in states that had been lagging.

Teachers in West Virginia and Oklahoma protested and won a pay raise. Pressure from educators spurred the Kentucky legislature to block the governor from vetoing the budget. And in Georgia, political pressure forced leaders to fully fund the state aid formula for the first time in years.

Attention has turned to North Carolina, where thousands of teachers protested at the opening of the state legislative session. North Carolina teachers once ranked 19th in the nation in pay, but now rank 37th.

Teachers are walking out in multiple states. Blame GOP economics.

By Paul Waldman

April 2, 2018 at 1:39 PM

Watch more!

More than a dozen teachers prepare signs at the home of a third-grade teacher ahead of a planned teacher strike in Oklahoma. (Dalton Bennett, Ashleigh Joplin/The Washington Post)

There's a revolt beginning among the nation's schoolteachers, one that could well pick up momentum and spread around the country. Or it might be more properly understood as a revolt among teachers in states governed by Republicans, although it's almost never framed that way in the news media.

But that's exactly what it is. What we're seeing is an indictment of the Republican model of taxation, spending and governance. Let's start with the latest news from Oklahoma, where teachers have had enough:

Oklahoma's schools and educators have endured some of the steepest cuts in education in the last decade, reductions that are evident in dwindling supplies, aging textbooks and the pay stubs of teachers. Before last week, state lawmakers have not raised the minimum salary for teachers in a decade, making them among the worst paid in the nation.

Monday's walkout is part of a wave of protests from educators furious over stagnant wages and cuts to education funding. Teachers in West Virginia won a 5 percent raise after a nine-day strike, emboldening educators across the country. Several schools in Kentucky were forced to close Friday as teachers left classrooms to head to the statehouse to protest school pension reform. Arizona teachers, who have been protesting at the state Capitol, threatened to strike, demanding a 20 percent raise and restoration of funding cuts.

The cuts in Oklahoma also had dire consequences for schools. Districts have not been able to maintain buildings, so students shiver through the winter in classrooms with faulty heating, share long-outdated textbooks and become accustomed to a rotating cast of teachers. Many school districts have moved to four-day school weeks because they cannot afford to keep the lights on for five days.

We should note that under this pressure, the Oklahoma legislature just approved a raise for teachers, which they have said is not enough. In Kentucky, teachers marched today on the state capitol after Republican lawmakers pushed through a plan that would shift them away from a pension system and toward hybrid 401(k)s to save money. In Arizona, the 20 percent increase teachers are demanding would still leave them below the national median for pay.

What's happening in these states isn't some kind of accident. It's a direct and predictable result of the Republican model of governing, which dictates low taxes and social services — like schools — that are as minimally funded as possible.

So, my red-state friends: How's that working out for you?

Oklahoma is a particularly pure example of conservative philosophy in action, since state law mandates a 75 percent supermajority in both houses of the legislature to raise taxes. That's the result of a 1992 initiative that came in response to a 1990 tax increase passed to increase school funding. Which has led them to where they are today, with four-day school weeks, cold buildings and decades-old textbooks.

If you had school-age kids and you were thinking of moving to Oklahoma, might that give you pause? What if you were a committed, enthusiastic teacher thinking of where you wanted to live? Would one of those states be high on your list?

It's not just about Oklahoma or Kentucky or Arizona or West Virginia. Let's look at teacher salaries around the country. I've made this chart using Department of Education data, and just to make things clear I've colored it to denote blue states, red states and purple states:

The only red state in the top 20 for teacher salaries is Alaska. And that's in large part because they have a small population and a huge source of funding — taxes and royalties paid by the oil industry — which accounts for a majority of the state budget. The only blue state in the bottom 20 is New Mexico, which is also the poorest of the blue states.

That's obviously a critical part of this story: The richer a state is, the more money it can collect in taxes, and the more it will be able to spend on education. But it's also about making choices. If you commit to never raising taxes for any reason, then you're almost guaranteed to create an underfunded school system that will struggle to attract and retain good teachers. It's funny that Republicans who are firm believers in market forces and the immutable logic of capitalism don't seem to grasp that fact.

Or maybe they understand it perfectly well, but just don't care. Either way, it's a good bet that as these walkouts and strikes succeed — even if they win only modest pay increases — teachers in more of those red states are going to decide that walking out is the only way to win themselves something resembling a decent salary for the challenging and vital work they do. Which is only going to draw more attention to how Republicans' tax and budget philosophy has direct and often harmful effects on people's lives.

Paul Waldman is a contributor to The Plum Line blog, and a senior writer at The American Prospect.



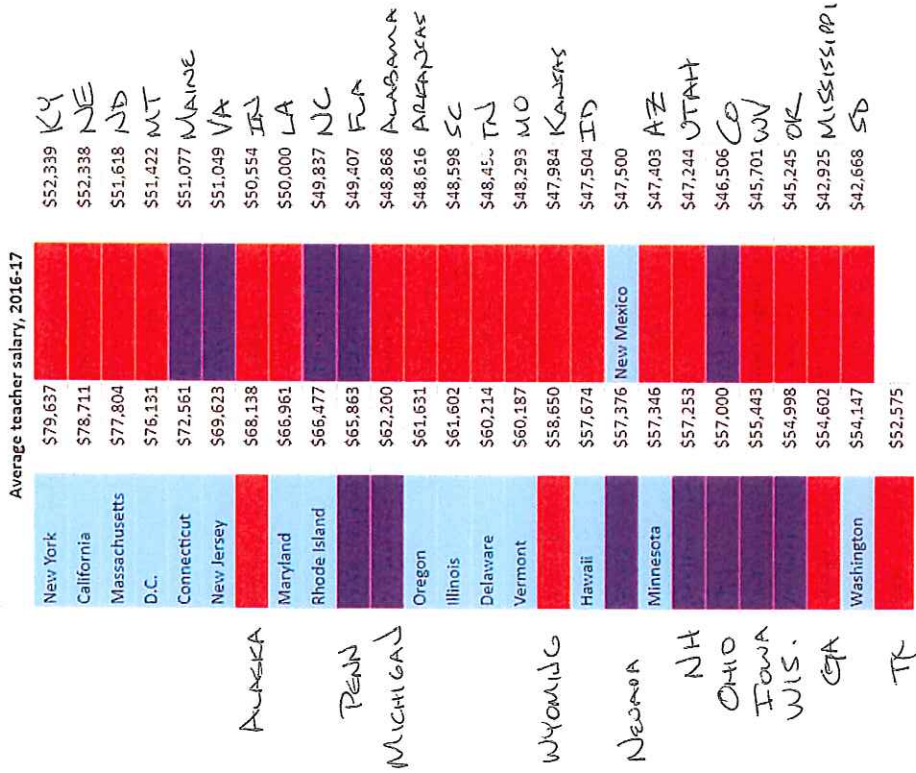
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States of Incarceration: The Global Context 2018

By Peter Wagner and Wendy Sawyer

June 2018

Oklahoma now has the highest incarceration rate in the U.S., unseating Louisiana from its long-held position as "the world's prison capital." By comparison, states like New York and Massachusetts appear progressive, but even these states lock people up at higher rates than nearly every other country on earth. Compared to the rest of the world, every U.S. state relies too heavily on prisons and jails to respond to crime.

World Incarceration Rates If Every U.S. State Were A Country

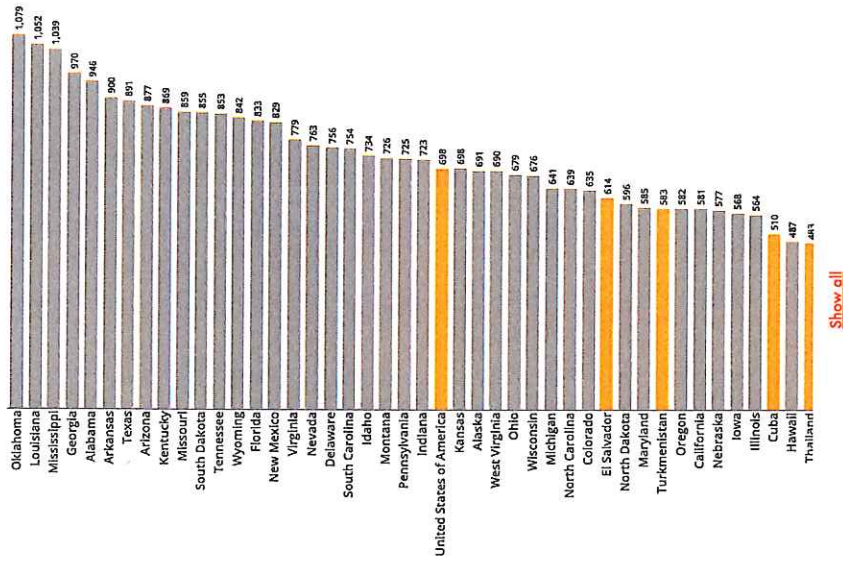


Figure 1. This graph shows the number of people in state prisons, local jails, federal prisons, and other systems of confinement from each U.S. state, per 100,000 people in that state and the incarceration rate per 100,000 in all countries with a total population of at least 200,000.

The graphic above charts the incarceration rates of every U.S. state alongside those of the other nations of the world. And looking at each state in the global context reveals that, in every region of the country, incarceration is out of step with the rest of the world.

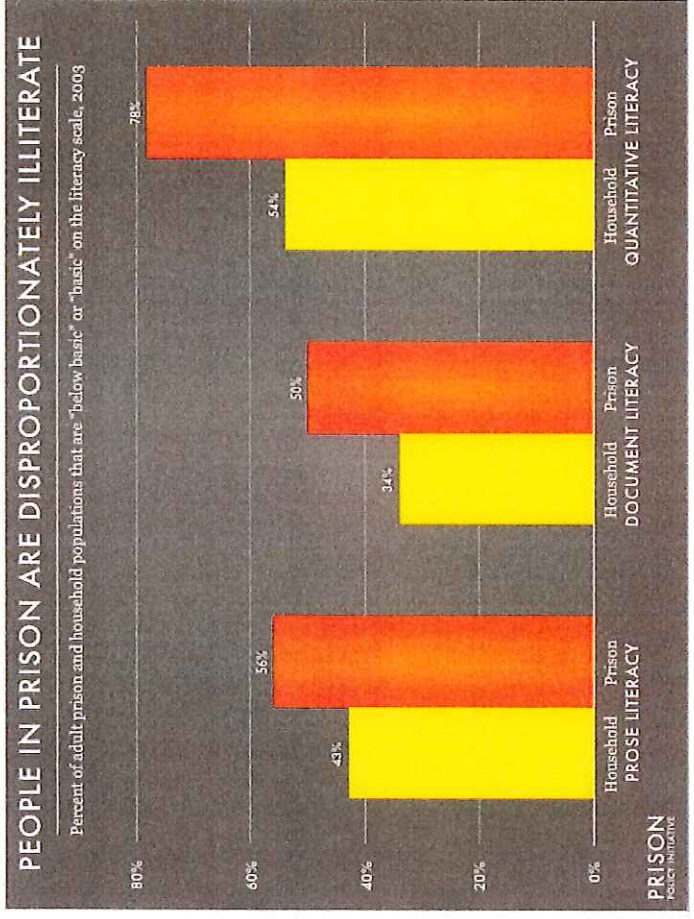
If we imagine every state as an independent nation, as in the graph above, every state appears extreme. 23 states would have the highest incarceration rate in the world — higher even than the United States. Massachusetts, the state with the lowest incarceration rate in the nation, would rank 9th in the world, just below Brazil and followed closely by countries like Belarus, Turkey, Iran, and South Africa.

In fact, many of the countries that rank alongside the least punitive U.S. states, such as Turkmenistan, Trinidad, Rwanda, and Russia, have authoritarian governments or have recently experienced large-scale internal armed conflict. Others struggle with violent crime on a scale far beyond that in the U.S.: El Salvador, Russia, Panama, Costa Rica, and Brazil all have [murder rates](#) more than double that of the U.S.

How do women compare?



Home Page > Publications > Visuals > People in prison are disproportionately illiterate



Data Source: Prison Policy Initiative analysis of the U.S. Department of Education *National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) Survey, 2003*.
(Graph: Corey Michon, 2016)

This graph originally appeared in [Uncovering Mass Incarceration's Literacy Disparity](#).

People in prison are 13 to 24 percent more represented in the lowest levels of literacy than people in the free world. The smallest disparity is for prose literacy, and the largest disparity is for quantitative literacy. (For an explanation of the different types of literacy, and why "basic" literacy is inadequate for our modern society, see the original post).

SCOTT WALKER DISMAYED THAT WISCONSIN APPARENTLY SMARTER DESPITE CUTS IN EDUCATION

THE NEW YORKER

By Andy Borowitz April 4, 2018



MADISON (The Borowitz Report)—Scott Walker, the governor of Wisconsin, said on Wednesday that he was "dismayed and alarmed" that people in his state had somehow become smarter despite substantial cuts in education.

"Ever since I took office, I have slashed education with the goal of making the voters of this state markedly dumber and incapable of critical thinking," he told reporters. "Instead, what I am looking at is a doomsday scenario."

Walker said that his cuts were based on a theory known as "trickle-up stupidity," in which students in Wisconsin's schools would become less informed and their ignorance would eventually infect their voting-age parents.

"Clearly, what looked like a can't-miss plan on paper has not panned out," he said.

Although Walker said that "it's not time yet to press the panic button," he warned that a so-called Smart Wave could be coming in his state.

"If Wisconsin voters continue to get smarter, that will be the end of me," he said.



Andy Borowitz is the New York Times best-selling author of "The 50 Funniest American Writers," and a comedian who has written for *The New Yorker* since 1998. He writes the *Borowitz Report*, a satirical column on the news, for [newyorker.com](#). [Read more »](#)

[New post] The corporate tax cut will never trickle down

The Weekly Sift <comment-reply@wordpress.com>

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New post on The Weekly Sift



The corporate tax cut will never trickle down

by [weeklysift](#)

The immediate benefits of the corporate tax cut have gone to stockholders and executives rather than workers. The long-term benefits will too.

Dropping the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% was the centerpiece of the tax reform package Republicans passed (with [no Democratic votes](#)) and Trump signed late last year. They sold that cut with the argument that lower corporate taxes would stimulate investment: Rather than build that new factory in Indonesia or Vietnam, a corporation might site it in Iowa instead, creating new jobs and raising wages. So while it might look like the benefits would go entirely to wealthy shareholders, in the long run that money would flow to American workers. American households, Trump economic advisors claimed, would see their incomes go up by [\\$4000 a year](#) over the next 3-5 years.

For a few weeks, it looked like the trickle-down was happening: A number of companies responded to the tax cut by giving their workers a [one-time \\$1000 bonus](#) -- small potatoes compared to what the companies themselves were set to rake in, but not bad if it represented a down payment on future wage increases.

But how long would it take those increases to show up? Well, not immediately, in spite of the well-publicized bonuses. And not in one quarter. [CBS reported](#) in April that the corporate windfall (financed by [increasing the federal budget deficit](#)) was mostly going into stock manipulations.

In the first quarter, corporate America committed \$305 billion to cash takeovers and stock buybacks, more than double the \$131 billion in pre-tax wage growth for both new and existing workers subject to income tax withholding, TrimTabs calculates.

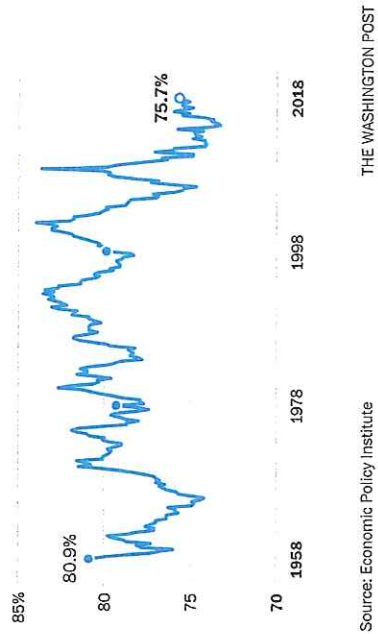
Worse, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) is reporting bad news for "production and nonsupervisory employees".

From May 2017 to May 2018, real average hourly earnings decreased 0.1 percent

[The Washington Post](#) elaborates, saying that this category "accounts for about four-fifths of the privately employed workers in America". It also provides this graph.

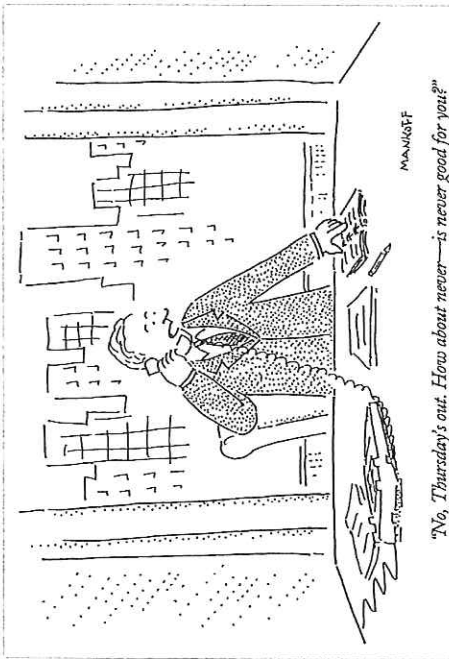
Workers' share of corporate income

The share of corporate-sector income received by workers has fallen from the 1990's.



How long? But it terms of the tax cut, it's still early days. Of course the process of building new factories and hiring new workers would take longer than just a few months. So when should we expect the corporate tax cut to trickle down? Two years? Five years? Ten?

What about never?



In his Friday column, [Paul Krugman](#) explains why the tax-motivated new factories and jobs and higher wages aren't coming, not immediately and probably not ever. He labels his argument as "wonkish", meaning that ordinary people who aren't economists may find it hard to follow. So let me interpret a little.

The vision of low corporate taxes creating new jobs with higher wages comes from the Industrial Era, the age of coal-powered textile mills and Henry Ford's assembly lines. Business investment in those days was mostly big, heavy equipment that cost a lot of money and was meant to last for decades or even longer. (I live in an apartment in a converted textile mill. The mill was built in the 1820s.) Businesses were national (or more likely, local) in those days, so a company located in Akron or Dearborn paid taxes in Akron or Dearborn.

That's not what the economy looks like any more.

Tax havens. The biggest corporations are multi-national, and they book their profits in [whatever countries their accountants choose](#). One trick is to transfer a company's intellectual property to a foreign subsidiary, and then pay massive royalties and licensing fees to that subsidiary.

The rights to Nike's Swoosh trademark, Uber's taxi-hailing app, Allergan's Botox patents and Facebook's social media technology have all resided in shell companies that listed as their headquarters Appleby offices in Bermuda and Grand Cayman, the records show.

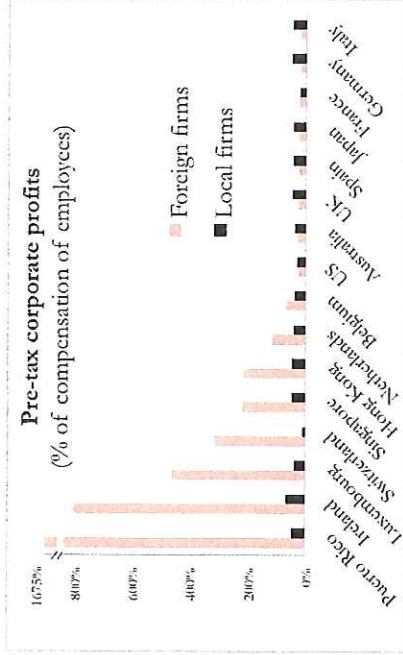
When pieces of your product -- an iPhone, say -- are made all over the world, who's to say what country the profit is made in? Your accountants say. And they all say the same things: You made your profits in a tax haven.

Indeed, a tiny handful of jurisdictions -- mostly Bermuda, Ireland, Luxembourg

and the Netherlands -- now account for 63 percent of all profits that American multinational companies claim to earn overseas, according to an analysis by Gabriel Zucman, an assistant professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

Think about it: When was the last time you bought something marked "Made in Luxembourg"? Multinationals don't build factories and employ workers in low-tax countries, they just route their profits there.

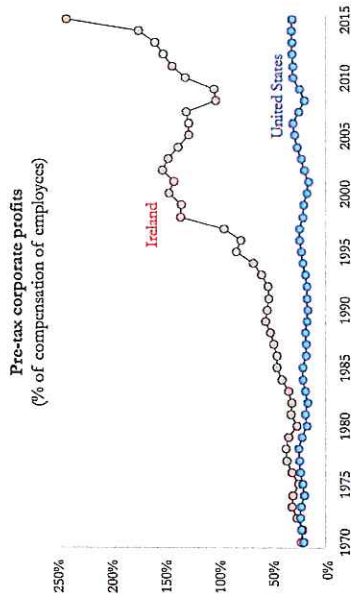
Krugman looks at the profit-to-wage ratio of foreign firms and local firms in a variety of countries.



If places like Puerto Rico and Ireland were just massively more productive than the US or Germany -- producing enormous profits with relatively low labor costs -- that would apply to their local firms too. But it doesn't. For local firms, the ratio of profits to wages stays pretty constant across the board. It's only foreign firms that have managed to unlock the Irish productivity miracle -- not with actual production that employs workers, but via accounting tricks that claim profits produced by workers in other countries.

In short, multinational corporations have benefited enormously from Ireland's generous tax laws. Irish workers, not so much. And with time, the corporations get better and better at gaming the tax system.

Figure 6: The Rise of Profit Shifting



So lower US corporate taxes may induce corporations to book more of their profits here, for what that's worth. But that's an accounting gimmick, not an actual change in economic activity.

But even with that illusion making the effect look bigger than it is, won't lower taxes still motivate investment and create jobs? Why doesn't that work? This is where Krugman gets wonkish.

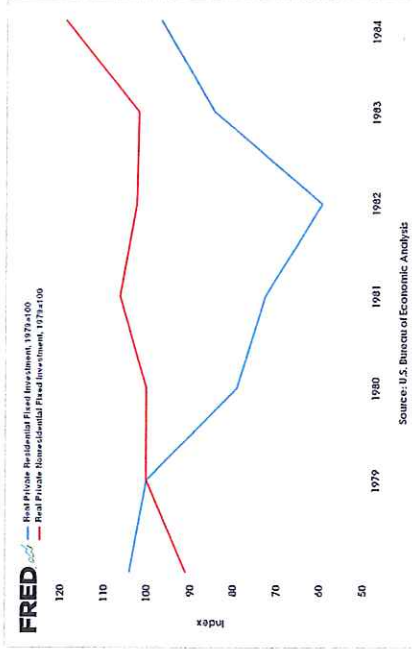
What investment means now. In the Industrial Era, nothing was more solid than a factory. Henry Ford started building his massive [River Rouge complex](#) in Dearborn during World War I, and it's still there. Once it made Model T's, now it makes F-150 trucks. The [US Steel complex in Gary](#), is even older, going back to 1908. Firestone in Akron, Caterpillar in Peoria -- the big Industrial Era companies were virtually synonymous with the towns where their factories were.

In the Industrial Era, corporate investment was long-haul investment. You bought land and erected massive buildings to house huge machines. You dug canals and built railroad spurs that came right up to the beginnings and ends of your production lines. The industrialists who made those investments were looking half a century into the future, or even longer.

But most corporate investment these days is far more ephemeral. Take Google, the [second-most valuable company in the world](#). What does it make exactly? Where is its River Rouge or Gary Works? If it wants to create a new product, it may have to hire some extra designers and programmers. But what does it invest in? An office, some computers. The office could be rented, the computers will be obsolete in a few years. Ditto for Facebook. Amazon also needs some warehouses, and maybe some robots to move boxes around. In a few years the warehouses could be somewhere else and the robots will be replaced by better robots. It's all short-term stuff.

Whenever a company makes an investment, it's weighing its expected profits against two things: the cost of capital (for example, the interest rate it has to pay on the money it borrows) and the depreciation rate (how fast the investment becomes obsolete). In the Industrial Era, when a factory complex or a railroad might be around for half a century, depreciation was low. So the cost of capital really mattered. If interest rates dropped from 6% to 4%, all your calculations changed. Investments you'd been putting off suddenly made sense again.

But when the equipment you're buying is going to be scrap in 3-5 years, the cost of capital doesn't matter nearly so much. Cutting interest rates still motivates people to buy houses, because those are long-term investments. But it doesn't motivate business investment much any more. Krugman looks at the huge interest rate spike of 1979-1982, when the Fed pushed rates up over 20%. Housing investment crashed. Business investment not so much.



If that was divergence was happening already in the early 80s, it's even moreso now.

What's that have to do with tax rates? Now comes the wonky part:

What does this have to do with taxes? One way to think about corporate taxes in a global economy is that they raise the effective cost of capital. Suppose global investors demand an after-tax rate of return r^ . Then the pre-tax rate of return they'll demand in your country -- your cost of capital -- is $r^*/(1-t)$, where t is the marginal tax rate on profits. So cutting the corporate tax rate reduces the effective cost of capital, which should encourage more investment.*

Let's work an example of that. Suppose global investors are looking for a 5% return on their investment after taxes. (That's Krugman's r^* .) If the corporate tax rate is 35%, they'll need to make a pre-tax return of 7.7%. (That's $5\%/(1 - .35)$.) So for every \$1,000 you invest, you make \$77, you pay 35% of your profit in taxes (\$27), and you wind up with \$50, or a 5% profit.

Now cut the tax rate to 21%. Now you only need to make 6.3% before taxes to wind up with 5% after taxes. For every \$1,000 invested, you make \$63, pay 21% in taxes (\$13) and wind up with \$50.

So in this example, the tax cut effectively reduces the cost of capital from 7.7% to 6.3%.

That would have been a big deal to Henry Ford or Andrew Carnegie. Jeff Bezos or Mark Zuckerberg prefer the lower rate, of course, but it doesn't drive their decisions in the same way.

Hence Krugman's conclusion: It's not that cutting corporate taxes will have *no* effect on jobs or wages, but it's going to work out to a huge loss of government revenue in exchange for a small number of jobs.

But the vision of a global market in which real capital moves a lot in response to tax rates is all wrong; most of what we see in response to tax rate differences is profit-shifting, not real investment. And there is no reason to believe that the kind of tax cut America just enacted will achieve much besides starving the government of revenue.

The end result. Krugman's argument needs one more step, because he leaves one question unanswered: Why should you care if the government collects less tax revenue? OK, maybe the lost revenue flows mainly to rich shareholders and billionaire CEOs and only a few jobs are created. Maybe the overall effect on wages doesn't amount to much. But if it's something, isn't that good? The taxman may bag a little less -- or even a lot less -- but why should American workers cry about that?

Over the last few decades, conservatives have done a good job of convincing many Americans that taxes just go down a rat hole and aren't connected to the valued services government provides. (In states like [Kansas](#) and [Louisiana](#), though, people are starting to see the relationship.) And for the moment, Republicans have stopped worrying about the budget deficits that they were so focused on during the Obama administration. Less revenue means bigger deficits, but, again, why should you care?

Because [deficit phobia will be back someday](#). We are already looking at [trillion-dollar deficits beginning in 2020](#), and that's under the assumption that we aren't in recession by then. (This economic cycle is already getting a little old; that's why unemployment numbers are so low.) In any serious recession -- and one always comes eventually -- the deficit will top \$2 trillion, which is much higher than the [record Bush/Obama deficit of FY 2009](#).

There is only one pile of money big enough cover a shortfall like that: entitlements like [Social Security and Medicare](#). (We could zero out the [defense budget](#) and still have a deficit.) When Republicans remember that they care about deficits, that's where they're going to look.

So American workers who cheer for the corporate tax cut are like [Esau being grateful to Jacob for his porridge](#): In the long run, the tax cut they let the rich monopolize will cost them their birthright of Social Security and Medicare.

the Hill with messages around Impact Aid funding, infrastructure, and vouchers. Our voices were heard loud and clear across the Capitol as school districts leaders had an opportunity to share their school district stories. Tuesday morning also brought US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos to the Hill to defend the Administration's FY 2019 budget request before the House education funding subcommittee, chaired by longtime Impact Aid supporter Congressman Cole (R-OK).

Congressman Cole, who met later that day with a dozen Oklahoma school leaders attending the NAFIS Conference, spent a majority of his allotted time questioning the Secretary about Impact Aid. In his opening remarks, he stated: *"I am concerned about the Administration continuing to request cuts that Congress has rejected. One example I'm particularly concerned about is the repeat proposal to decrease funding for Impact Aid. . . that aid is an important source of resources for school districts that are financially burdened by their large amount of federal property."*

Later in the hearing, Congressman Cole questioned DeVos directly about the proposed cuts to Impact Aid: *"I am very concerned about the proposed cuts in Impact Aid. School districts with high numbers of federally connected children or large amounts of un-taxable federal property rely heavily on these resources. . . and let me again add the last administration also had this idea as well and, uh, it didn't fair too well."*

Congressman Cole also raised important questions and concerns about the Administration's interest in an economic impact study on the extent to which federal property expands the tax base in federally impacted communities, saying: *"Let me assure you, in the cases I mentioned, let's just take Tinker Air Force Base, that's 16,000 people that wouldn't be there. And the principle place where they work and the investment is federal and it's not subject to state or local taxes. There's no way the businesses around them make up for that or come anywhere close to it. . . Indian properties [are] held trust by the federal government. . . it's not disposed of very often, so I would just be very careful here because these funding streams are awfully critical."*

Congressman Cole made specific references to the other federally impacted communities he represents in Congress, including Fort Sill and the eleven Tribes in his congressional district. The question about Impact Aid was the only one during the more than [two-hour hearing](#) that DeVos opted to have US Department of Education staff answer in her place.

After a six-month delay, the FY 2018 Omnibus Appropriations bill was signed into law on Friday March 23. The bill included the largest increase for Impact Aid in well over a decade: \$81 million increase for Basic Support and \$4.5 million increase for Federal Properties. The additional funding over the original proposed levels would not have been possible without the broader effort to "Raise the Caps" on discretionary funding that Congress approved just a few weeks ago. The increases are a direct result of the NAFIS Family's hard work of engaged advocacy and unity of message.



Politics

Senators Keeping Hope — and ‘Regular Order’ — Alive

That immigration debate hasn't derailed spending may be cause for optimism

Posted Jun 21, 2018 5:05 AM

Niels Lesniewski
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With Immigration Controversy as Backdrop, GOP Senate Candidates Blast Democrats
(/news/politics/gop-candidates-attack-democratic-bill-fix-immigrant-family-mess)

Democratic Senators Ask If CFPB Nominee Worked on Immigration Policy Separating Children and Parents
(/news/politics/democrats-ask-about-immigration-role-of-cfpb-nominee)

Senate Democrats Oppose Federal Retirement Cutbacks
(/news/politics/senate-democrats-oppose-federal-retirement-cutbacks)



Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard C. Shelby and Sen. Roy Blunt are among the lawmakers trying to keep the Senate's productive streak alive. (Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call file photo)

Does the Senate's sudden appetite for “regular order” have any chance of continuing through the summer, particularly when it comes to writing spending bills?

“One only hopes,” Sen. Lindsey Graham (https://www.rollcall.com/members?438&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) said. “Appropriators seem to be able to get along better than other people.”

The South Carolina Republican chairs the subcommittee responsible for funding the State Department. His bill is one of the three on the schedule for Thursday's Appropriations Committee meeting.

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Watch: Trump Says News Media 'Almost Treasonous' for North Korea Deal Coverage

Members Fail to Beat the Press — and the Rain — at

That the first amalgam of three spending bills to reach the Senate floor has not been upended by the headline-leading debate over the Trump administration policy shift that brought about the separation of migrant parents from their children may be the best testament to the interest of senators in making the process work.

"I laughingly said to Chairman Shelby, 'I'm holding back some of the greatest amendments on earth just so the Appropriations Committee can prove that it can do business,'" Senate Minority Whip Richard J. Durbin (https://www.rollcall.com/members?176&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) said.

The Illinois Democrat is a senior member of the spending panel, as well as the ranking Democrat on the Defense subcommittee. Alabama Republican Richard C. Shelby (https://www.rollcall.com/members?11&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) became chairman of both panels earlier this year.


Balancing act

Shelby's efforts to keep the process on track included a Monday meeting at the White House. He joined Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Shelley Moore Capito (https://www.rollcall.com/members?7252&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) of West Virginia to speak with President Donald Trump about border security, a key piece of Capito's bill and which is scheduled for full committee consideration Thursday.

Trump, of course, has expressed a desire for some \$25 billion for construction of a wall at the southwestern border. Shelby said the senators made clear to the president their intent to continue the bipartisan work on spending to try to avoid a shutdown.

"Of course, the president's focused on the whole border," Shelby told Roll Call on Tuesday. "Like all presidents, he'd want it done today, you know. And Congress is different, a step at a time. We told him that."

Durbin said a much smaller amount of wall-related funding in the fiscal 2019 Homeland Security measure had been worked out on a bipartisan basis, avoiding an obvious flash point.

It's also possible that Wednesday's defeat of a Republican effort to rescind past funding as requested by the Trump administration will help the process. 

Appropriations Vice Chairman Patrick J. Leahy (https://www.rollcall.com/members?510&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) had warned against passing the rescissions plan because it could undermine the budget agreement from earlier this year (<https://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/senate-leaders-strike-budget-deal>). He lauded the rejection, 48-50, of a motion to discharge the House-passed package from committees in the Senate, a move that effectively blocked a floor vote.

"The Senate has reinforced the bipartisan, bicameral budget deal struck by Congress four months ago by rejecting President Trump's shortsighted rescission package," the Vermont Democrat said in a statement. "The message that this vote sends at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue will be heard loudly and clearly."

Moving on

The Senate quickly got back to working on spending legislation after what turned out to be one long vote on cutbacks.

Majority Whip John Cornyn (https://www.rollcall.com/members?14833&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) said Wednesday afternoon he expected the Senate to hold final votes on the three-bill spending package before shutting off the chamber lights for the week.

"We had this temporary diversion on the rescissions package, so we're now back on the bill and hopefully we'll get that done this week," the Texas Republican said.

"I think we'll know more about how the year looks if we can successfully get through the first group of bills, or so," Sen. Roy Blunt (https://www.rollcall.com/members?274&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) said. "Let's just hope we, this week, are able to move this package of three bills off the floor and have an established pattern we can repeat."

The Missouri Republican, a member of leadership, is also chairman of the subcommittee that drafts the often-contentious spending bill funding Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Senators know the goodwill could disappear at any time, but for now, even some of the most contentious Appropriations Committee measures are on track. Durbin said he and Shelby are even "going to be ready" to move a Defense spending bill.

In addition to his full committee role, Leahy is the Democratic appropriator with whom Graham works the most closely in overseeing the subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations.

"I'm really pleased with Sen. Leahy. He's great to work with. He's trying to find a result," Graham said. "It's a chance for Democrats and Republicans to do something together. We've got to run the government. You can always make it better; it's an endless quest."

The progress on spending bills is continuing just after the Senate worked through and passed the fiscal 2019 defense authorization, despite battles that restricted amendment votes.

How far those good feelings extend beyond the spending measures will likely be tested again next week, with the Senate planning to take up a reauthorization of farm and nutrition programs before the July Fourth recess.

Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (https://www.rollcall.com/members?195&utm_source=memberLink?utm_source=memberLink) has been looking forward to bringing the bipartisan legislation to the floor — perhaps in a similarly truncated fashion.

"I'm open to talking to anybody about the farm bill. Usually, you talk to any member of Congress or a senator about a farm bill, there's about an 11-seconds attention span," the Kansas Republican said Wednesday when asked about his willingness to discuss concerns raised by some conservatives in the House, where the farm bill has been held up over the immigration debate.



House GOP 2019 budget calls for deep Medicare, Medicaid spending cuts

BY NIV ELIS AND PETER SULLIVAN - 06/19/18 01:16 PM EDT

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House Republicans offered a budget proposal on Tuesday that would cut mandatory spending by \$5.4 billion over a decade, including \$537 billion in cuts to Medicare and \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and other health programs.

On Medicare, the budget would move towards a system of private health insurance plans competing with one other, rather than the current open-ended, government-provided Medicare system.

On Medicaid, the budget would impose new caps that could lead to cuts in payments over time.

The budget also sets up a fast-track process known as reconciliation that could allow ObamaCare repeal to pass without Democratic votes in the Senate.

But that is a long way off at this point.

The Senate would have to adopt a budget as well to unlock the process, and GOP leaders have indicated they have moved on from ObamaCare repeal for now.

The budget also proposes \$2.6 trillion in reductions to other mandatory spending programs, including welfare and other anti-poverty programs.

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reform, there are real fiscal challenges casting a shadow of doubt on the nation's future, including \$21 trillion of debt that is rapidly on the rise. We must overcome the challenges," said House Budget Committee Chairman Steve Womack (R-Ark.).

The budget, which will be marked up on Wednesday and Thursday, is largely a GOP messaging document. Congress is legally required to approve a budget plan by April, which then kicks off a process of appropriating 12 spending bills.

A separate spending deal reached in February largely governs the next year's budget, and until this week it was unclear whether the House Budget Committee would even bother with a budget plan. There is still no word from the Senate Budget Committee on whether it will present its own document.

The new budget calls for a precipitous drop in non-defense spending over the next decade, even as defense spending rises.

The plan sticks to the 2019 discretionary spending levels agreed in the budget deal, but then charts an aggressive course to balance over the course of a decade.

Non-defense discretionary spending, which covers most of the federal government's activities, would drop from the \$597 billion to \$555 billion by 2028. Meanwhile, defense spending would climb from \$647 billion this year to \$736 billion in 2028.

Democrats lambasted the plan for unrealistic assumptions, including the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, a goal the GOP has thus far failed to achieve despite numerous efforts.

"The 2019 Republican budget scraps any sense of responsibility to the American people and any obligation to being honest. Its repeal of the Affordable Care Act and extreme cuts to health care, retirement security, anti-poverty programs, education, infrastructure, and other critical investments are real and will inflict serious harm on American families," said Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), the ranking member on the House Budget committee.

He also pointed to the GOP tax law, which the Congressional Budget Office projected could cost as much as \$1.9 trillion over a decade, as a driver of deficits.

To achieve balance, the budget plan assumes that the economy will consistently grow at 2.6 percent a year over the next decade, far higher than the CBO estimate of 1.8 percent a year, but lower than the administration's rosy 3 percent outlook.

Budget watchers say that the plan is not realistic.

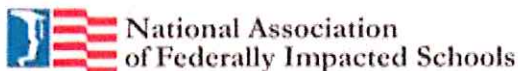
"While the budget resolution calls for \$8.1 trillion of deficit reduction relative to CBO's baseline, most of these savings come from rosy economic assumptions or unreconciled and often unrealistic spending cuts," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

"The budget also fails to account for the costs of extending the recent tax cuts or replacing the Affordable Care Act, despite continued efforts to enact these policies," she added.

A separate call for \$302 billion in savings through the reconciliation process, which requires authorizing committees in Congress to reduce deficits, "would represent a step in the right direction," she continued.

From: **Goldmann, Hilary** hilary@nafisd.org
Subject: INFO ALERT: House Proposes \$52 Million Increase for Impact Aid
Date: June 14, 2018 at 4:36 PM
To: Goldmann, Hilary hilary@nafisd.org

HG



NAFIS Information Alert:

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education released its FY 2019 bill ahead of tomorrow's markup. **Despite level-funding for the Subcommittee, the bill proposes a \$52 million increase for Impact Aid -- \$50 million for Basic Support and \$2 million for Federal Properties.**

These proposed increases are a strong rebuke of the Administration's FY 2019 proposed budget that included a decimating \$525 million cut to the Impact Aid Basic Support program and the elimination of Federal Property payments.

NAFIS Policy & Advocacy Director Jocelyn Bissonnette said of the increases: "The NAFIS Family has worked extremely hard this year to protect Impact Aid from cuts and advocate for programmatic increases. We're only at the beginning of the funding process, but this is as strong of a start as we've seen in the House in many years."

The House is expected to mark up the bill before the full Appropriations Committee next week, while the Senate Subcommittee is expected to mark up its version of the bill later this month.

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A Government Shutdown This Fall Is Already A Real Possibility

Stan Collender, CONTRIBUTOR

May 22, 2018 6:00 AM 453👁

Fiscal 2019 appropriations do not appear to be a high [+] priority for House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI). Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images

Even though the start of the next federal fiscal year is still four months away, Congress's action...or, really, inaction...over the past week makes it virtually certain both that a continuing resolution will need to be enacted by October 1 to keep the government operating and that there will be a possible government shutdown this fall only six weeks before the midterm elections.

How is this possible? As they used to say in the cartoons (see below starting at about 55 seconds), just follow the bouncing ball.

1. Republican House and Senate leaders months ago made it clear that, even though federal law requires it, they will not allow Congress to vote on a budget resolution this year.
2. Appropriations for the coming year — fiscal 2019 in this case — cannot be considered by the full House until either the budget resolution is adopted or May 15, whichever comes first.
3. That means that as of a week ago, the House was legally allowed to debate and pass appropriations for the fiscal year that will start this October 1.
4. But even though it could move ahead, the House took no action whatsoever on any of the 2019 appropriations.
5. In fact, [according to Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), as of today only 5 of the 12 fiscal 2019 appropriations have been approved by the full House Appropriations Committee and another 2 have been approved by their subcommittee.
6. That means there hasn't been even a preliminary approval of five of the fiscal 2019 appropriations.
7. And, as the Congress.gov chart also shows, nothing has yet been approved by either the full Senate Appropriations Committee or any of its subcommittees even though they're not required to wait for the House to move forward.

8. Congress doesn't have a great deal of time. Not only will fiscal 2019 begin in about four months, but the House is only scheduled to be in session 42 of the 95 weekdays between now and then. The Senate is only scheduled to be in session for 61 days.

9. Unless the House, Senate and White House work at an unprecedentedly fast pace, the only way to prevent a government shutdown this fall will be for Congress to agree on a continuing resolution.

10. But with Paul Ryan (R-WI) being a lame duck speaker, the House Freedom Caucus once again feeling its political oats, Democrats not wanting to hand the GOP any kind of legislative victory just before the election and a president who may feel the need to prove his value to his base on spending after he signed the 2018 omnibus appropriation against its wishes, getting an agreement in the House on a CR may not be that easy.

11. An agreement between House and Senate Republicans that is also acceptable to Trump will be just as difficult. He's already tweeted that he wants billions for his wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

// The Senate should get funding done before the August break, or NOT GO HOME. Wall and Border Security should be included. Also waiting for approval of almost 300 nominations, worst in history. Democrats are doing everything possible to obstruct, all they know how to do. STAY!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) May 12, 2018

12. It's logical to assume that Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) want to prevent the possibility of a shutdown this fall by pushing hard to enact as many individual 2019 appropriations as possible.

13. But with so few legislative days left before the start of the fiscal year, that option essentially is already gone.

14. Ryan and McConnell will also want to avoid short-term CRs that will keep House and Senate Republicans in Washington in October rather than campaigning for reelection in their districts and states.

15. That makes October 1 the relevant deadline and a showdown this fall over a multi-month continuing resolution and a government shutdown a real possibility.

Politics

White House to propose merging Labor and Education into one agency as centerpiece of federal government overhaul

By **Lisa Rein**, **Damian Paletta**

June 20, 2018 at 9:40 PM



White House budget director Mick Mulvaney listens during a National Space Council meeting at the White House on Monday. (Susan Walsh/AP)

The White House on Thursday will propose merging the Education and Labor departments into one federal agency, the centerpiece of a plan to remake a bureaucracy that President Trump and his supporters consider too big and bloated, according to an administration official familiar with the plan.

The long-awaited proposal to reorganize federal agencies would shrink some and augment the missions of others. It is the result of a directive that Mick Mulvaney, head of the Office of Management and Budget, issued to federal leaders 14 months ago. He urged them to find ways to merge overlapping, duplicative offices and programs and eliminate those the administration views as unnecessary.

The plan also is expected to include major changes to the way the government provides benefits for low-income Americans, an area that conservatives have long targeted as excessive, by consolidating safety-net programs that are administered through multiple agencies.

The reorganization plan also is likely to revamp the Office of Personnel

Management (OPM) to shrink its role as the department responsible for employee background checks, retirement claims, benefits and federal workforce policy, two sources with knowledge of the proposal said.

The plan to consolidate the Labor and Education departments, which first surfaced in Education Week and was later confirmed by other news outlets, would allow the Trump administration to focus its efforts to train students in vocational skills in one place.

Republicans have long expressed an interest in eliminating the Education Department since it was created by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos have shown similar leanings.

In 1995, the House introduced legislation to merge the agencies to put K-12 schools and job training together, but the measure failed.

The Education Department is the smallest Cabinet agency in number of employees, with just under 4,000, and a \$68 billion budget. It oversees federal student loans, distributes K-12 education funding, and enforces federal civil rights laws at public schools and colleges.

The Labor Department, with about 15,000 employees and a \$13 billion budget, has a broad portfolio that includes programs to train workers, enforcement of minimum-wage laws, the Bureau of Labor Statistics — which produces economic data — and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Under Republican presidents, the department has tended to have a lower profile than under Democratic administrations.

Other presidents have tried to remake the government with varying degrees of success, failing to enact large changes because they proved too cumbersome, or resistance from Congress and federal employee unions was too strong.

President Barack Obama pledged at a State of the Union address early in his tenure to consolidate multiple trade agencies, but he was unsuccessful.

Many changes the Trump White House will propose Thursday — the Labor and Education merger and other plans to consolidate offices with similar missions, for example — would need to be approved by Congress, making their success a long shot in a politically divided period leading up to the midterm elections.

But the strategies could serve to better frame Trump's vision of government amid complaints from conservatives about the growing budget deficit. The president has not advocated for specific changes to agencies' structures, although his supporters often gripe about what they believe is a "deep state" of entrenched federal workers that they want removed.

The government structure has remained largely intact under both Democrats and Republicans, and Trump has even proposed expanding it somewhat by creating a new "Space Force" in the military.

Federal agencies and the OMB, which is leading the reorganization effort, have kept details of their planning secret. Federal employee unions and oversight committees in Congress have voiced concern that the Trump administration did not consult them.

The OPM has long struggled to handle hundreds of thousands of costly background checks each year. It was the target four years ago of a massive theft by the Chinese government of personal information from 22 million current and former federal employees and contractors.

Under the White House proposal for OPM reorganization, details of which were first reported by Federal News Radio, the background investigation system is likely to be transferred to the Defense Department. Other agency functions, including the processing of employee retirement claims and benefits, could be moved to the General Services Administration. Its personnel-policy role could be moved under the OMB.

Some proposals are likely to meet stiff resistance from federal employee unions, which are at odds with the administration over executive orders the White House issued in May to limit their power.

Consolidating programs and offices could lead to a smaller workforce. Mulvaney has also told agencies that they must come up with a long-term blueprint to cut the number of federal workers starting in October.

Josh Dawsey and Valerie Strauss contributed to this report.

Lisa Rein covers federal agencies and the management of government in the Trump administration. At The Washington Post, she has written about the federal workforce, state politics and government in Annapolis, Md., and in Richmond; local government in Fairfax County, Va. and the redevelopment of Washington and its neighborhoods.

Damian Paletta is White House economic policy reporter for The Washington Post. Before joining The Post, he covered the White House for the Wall Street Journal.

NAFIS Members:

Faces of Impact Aid

With so much uncertainty in Washington, DC, NAFIS is reviving a practice used during conference time that can be very powerful. It's easy, but critical your school district participates. Dust off and refresh your "Impact Aid Story," the one you may already use in meetings with staff in Washington Hill offices. We are calling this effort "Faces of Impact Aid," and are modeling the project after the very popular "Humans of New York" (HONY) idea. [Click here](#) to learn more about HONY. Our goal for this project is to make a connection between Impact Aid and the communities it serves.

Tell us what Impact Aid means to your school district, and illustrate it on a very personal, local level because it's often local stories that put a face with Impact Aid that mean the most to Hill staffers. When you come to the NAFIS Spring Conference in Washington, DC, we will have a Faces of Impact Aid collection box at our registration desk. Please bring your Impact Aid story (it can fit on one page), and drop it in the box when you pick up your conference materials, or email it ahead of the conference to NAFIS Communications Director Bryan Jernigan (bryan@nafisdc.org). On the last day of the conference, use your Impact Aid story as an ice breaker in meetings with Hill Staff, along with the NAFIS Impact Aid Talking Points.

Your Impact Aid Story may also have a life after you return home! NAFIS staff will feature Impact Aid stories on our social media pages and share them with policy makers.

When filling out the questions below, give detail. Why is Impact Aid important to your district, how do you use it and who does it impact the most? Finally, attach a picture that illustrates your story.

Faces of Impact Aid Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in this project and we look forward to receiving your answers!

Please follow the steps below:

Step 1: Basic Information

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Name | 4. State |
| 2. Title / Position | 5. Email |
| 3. School | 6. What is your Federal impactation? |

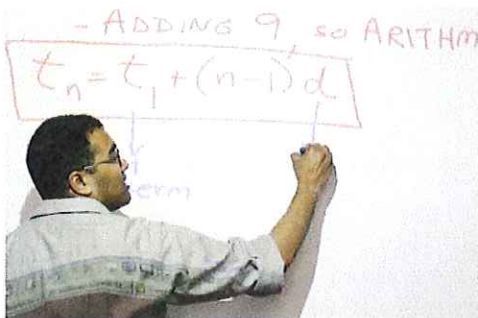
Step 2: Tell Your Impact Aid Story

1. Describe the demographic and/or geographic context relevant for your school district (student population, size of district, rural, percentage of free and reduced lunch, etc.).
2. How do you use Impact Aid to support academic achievement and operate your school district?
3. Connect your use of Impact Aid to a story that explains how it supports students/teachers/community, etc.
4. What would your school district do with more Impact Aid funding?

Step 3: Include Photo that Illustrates Your Story

An example Faces of Impact Aid story is attached to help better illustrate one idea for how you can refresh your story.

Your Faces of Impact Aid Story Could Look Like This:



Kids in our school district struggled with math at all levels. So, using Impact Aid dollars, we invested in new curricula, purchased new computer aids our kids can use to augment their studies, and implemented ongoing professional development aligned to student standards for all of our mathematics teachers. We even blocked out time for teachers to meet as a team to review student data and progress. We also used Impact Aid funds to hire a math specialist. We are a rural school district, so enticing the best qualified teachers is challenging, but Impact Aid allowed us to be competitive, and it shows. Our kids' test scores are higher than they have

been in the last 10 years, moving up 15 points in the state assessment in just two years. We're looking better than ever and our kids are performing beyond expectations!



Hill City School District Hill City, South Dakota

Federal Impact: Federal Property, Mt. Rushmore
Approximately 500 Students

Hill City School District, located in the southern Black Hills region of South Dakota, recognizes the incredible educational opportunities Impact Aid provides to the 500 children enrolled in our district. Each year our graduating seniors walk across the stage of the park amphitheater with Mt. Rushmore reminding everyone in attendance of our nation's strength and our commitment to freedom and democracy for all.

Impact Aid plays a vital role in the educational journey of our students, and we are proud that with it we can offer: 100% highly qualified teachers; all buildings that meet or exceed state and Federal adequate yearly progress benchmarks; ACT scores that meet or exceed state and national trends; an effective ELL program serving students and their families; robust academic programs focused on systems for continuous improvement; summer academic and technology camps open for all students; and a vibrant Kindergarten through twelfth grade co-curricular program focused on the fine arts and athletics building lifelong skills for students and enriching the lives of our families and community. These are just a few examples of success that can be attributed to the value Impact Aid funding brings to our school district each day!



Loogootee Community School Corporation Loogootee, Indiana

Federal Impact: Federal Property, Crane Naval Support Activity Base

Loogootee Community School Corporation (LSCS) educates 845 students from towns and rural areas in southwest Indiana. Approximately 48-percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. LSCS receives roughly \$300,000 annually in Impact Aid, a critical source of funding. Without Impact Aid, LCSC would have only one counselor for all K-12 students. With it, LCSC offers our students a full-time Youth First (YF) places workers in schools to provide prevention and early intervention services for at-risk students with school behavior problems, peer relationship difficulties, depression and home-life conflicts. During the past year, our YF social worker served our students in the following ways:

- 1334 teacher and administrative consultations regarding students
- 661 total students served
- 560 individual meetings with students
- 285 parent consultations to assist with parent-child relationships
- 73 classroom presentations
- emergency suicide prevention

Losing Impact Aid would create massive cuts throughout our district, as it makes up 6.5-percent of our General Fund revenue.



**Elwood Community Consolidated School District
#203
Elwood, Illinois**

Federal Impaction: Federal Property, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
Rural School District
Student Enrollment: 380
Special Education Students: 11%

Elwood CCSD #203 is a small, rural elementary school district 45 miles southwest of Chicago. Our total enrollment is at 380 student, with about 30-percent of those students coming from low-income households. Our special education population is near 11-percent.

Impact Aid is about 20-percent of our overall annual budget. Because of Impact Aid, we are able to have less than 20 students in our kindergarten sections. Our students are given much small group and individual support on a daily basis and it has proven to be very beneficial in our overall academic achievement. Our elementary school district is in the top 25-percent of all our Will County neighboring schools regarding achievement based on the state assessment.



**Lemont High School District 210
Lemont Township, Illinois**

Federal Impaction: Argonne National Laboratory, Federal Property
Approximately 1,400 Students 9-12
94% of Students Graduate in Four Years

Lemont High School District 210 in Illinois educates just over 1,400 students near federally owned Argonne National Laboratory, the largest landowner in the district. The district uses Federal Impact Aid for critical academics like SSTEAM WOW, a program for fostering inclusion of both special needs and general education students to develop Special Education, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics skills in the areas of social communication and digital resources. This program has generated national recognition for its innovative approach. General education students benefit by providing coaching and mentoring to their peers, while special education students receive instruction through hands-on activities while working on real-world problems. A loss of Impact Aid funding likely would result in a 10-percent reduction in the number of teachers employed at Lemont, as our Impact Aid revenue funds salaries and benefits for approximately 10 or our 100 teachers.