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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
ACT AMENDMENTS (H. R. 69)

The President today has signed H. R. 69 which extends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the impact aid laws, the Adult Education Act, the Bilingual Education Act, and the Indian Education Act through fiscal year 1978. It also extends the Education of the Handicapped Act through fiscal year 1977 and the Emergency School Aid Act through fiscal year 1976.

As an omnibus education bill, the major provisions of H. R. 69 are as follows:

Title I Education of the Disadvantaged

- Under current law, Title I authorizes aid to States and local school districts for the education of disadvantaged students. Under H. R. 69 the Title I formula is revised and will more accurately reflect "need" and provide for better distribution of funds.
- Permits services directly to non-public school children where States fail or are restricted by law from providing equal educational opportunities.
- The Special Grants provision continues categorical authorization for State incentive grants and funds for "concentration" of poor children, instead of the single formula.

Busing

- Prohibits the use of all Federal funds (except Impact Aid) for busing activities.
- Allows the courts to terminate busing orders on a finding that the school district has and will continue to comply with the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.
- Prohibits any new order to bus past the next nearest school.
- Prohibits orders to bus except at the start of an academic year.
- Prohibits busing across district lines or altering district lines unless, as a result of discriminatory actions in both school districts, the lines caused segregation.
- Provides school districts a reasonable time to develop voluntary plans before a court order can be executed.

(MORE)

Impact Aid

- Eliminates entitlements on behalf of children whose parents work on Federal property in another State.
- Establishes a differential payment rate recognizing varying degrees of impact on school districts of Federal children.
- Provides priority funding for school districts whose high concentration of children residing on Federal property and whose parents work on Federal property.
- Increases entitlements for children of uniformed military personnel who are handicapped or have a learning disability.

Education of the Handicapped

- Establishes a Deputy Commissioner for a new bureau of handicapped.
- Extends State formula grants through FY 77.

Bilingual Education

- Provides financial assistance to State and local agencies to "establish equal educational opportunity for children of limited English-speaking ability."

Special Projects

- Beginning in FY 76, consolidates existing authorities into a new categorical grant program. Focus of funds on metric education, women's educational equity, consumer, gifted career, community schools.

Consolidation

- Several existing categories are to be fully consolidated into two groupings, Libraries and Instructional Resources, and Support and Innovation by FY 77.

Other

- Extends current Adult Education Law for 4 years and establishes a new 15% set aside from State funds for innovative programs and teacher training.
- Provides 2 new Vocational Education Act categorical authorities dealing with bilingual education.
- Extends Indian Education Act program for special projects for Indian education and programs for Indian children in public schools through FY 78.
- Extends through 1976 Emergency School Aid Act, which provides for assistance for local education agencies with special needs attendant to desegregation and overcoming minority group isolation in schools.

(MORE)

- Authorizes a new Reading Improvement Program with categorical programs for 1975-1978 to be distributed to States on school age population formula.
- Liberalizes Veterans cost of instruction payment institutional eligibility, to require only 10% of undergraduates to be veterans.
- Authorizes White House Conference on Education in 1977.
- Extends present Ethnic Heritage Studies program through FY 1978.

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