

# Research Evidence Against Dismantling the U.S. Education Department: How to Protect and Improve Programs for English Learners

## Are Funding Levels Adequate for Achieving the Goals of Title III?

**No.** The goal of Title III programs is to ensure that English learners (EL) and recently arrived immigrant students attain English proficiency and achieve academic content master at the same levels expected of all students by providing supplemental language instruction and support services. Programs designed to support EL students—such as those involving language assessment, the recruitment of qualified staff, and the delivery of excellent instruction—often demand significant resources. The research consensus is that Title III is not adequately funded to reach these goals.

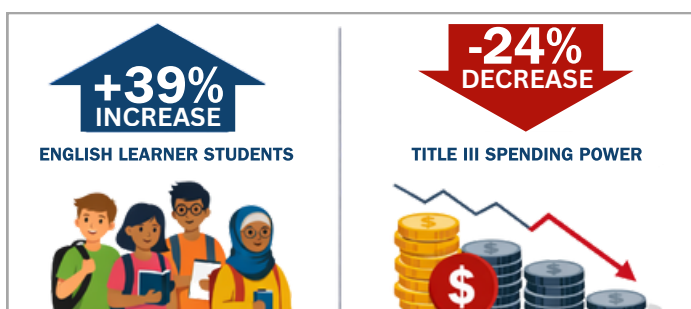
### How Are Supports for ELs Funded?

**State funding streams make up the majority of funding allocated for English learner students; federal funding covers about 8% of overall costs of programs for ELs and recent immigrants.** Under the “supplement, not supplant” principle, Title III cannot be used to fund programs and services that are required by law, such as core English as a second language instruction, EL assessments, identification of EL status, or basic translation or interpretation requirements.

### Are Federal Sources of Funding Adequate?

**Researchers and advocates have consistently argued that Title III funding for English learners and recent immigrants is inadequate.** While estimates of adequate funding levels vary, no one has suggested that there is currently too much money being set aside to support ELs.

A 2022 [budget brief](#) by UnidosUS reported that Title III funding did not keep pace with the growing EL population or rising costs. In fact, when adjusted for inflation, the “spending power” of Title III funding actually *decreased* by 24% between 2002 and 2022.



Advocates have called for increasing Title III by **\$1-2 billion** per year to achieve adequate funding levels.

Read the full research brief [here](#). Visit our [website](#) for more resources on protecting and improving programs for English learners, including a webinar recording, summaries of research evidence, and an FAQ on Title III and other federal supports.