

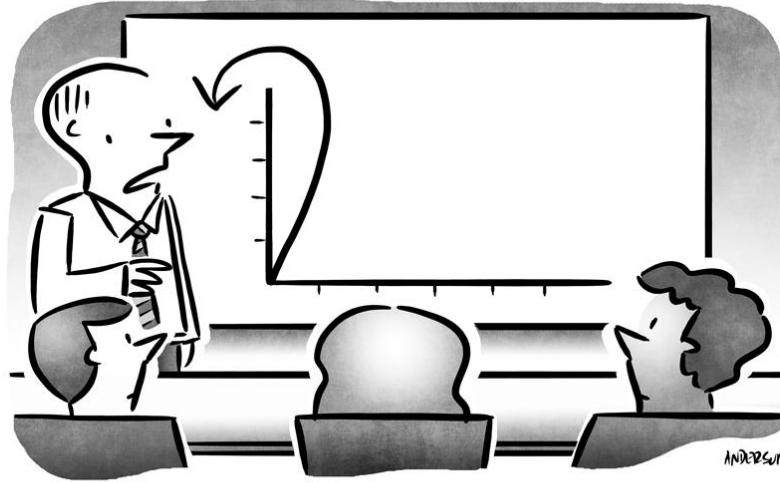
The Big Beautiful Bill: Making Cents of Its Impact on Schools

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Disclaimer

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 - We DO NOT represent teachers, students, parents, or district employees.
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The Bill



"I'm gonna be honest with you; I have no idea
what the hell is happening here."

Changes to SNAP

- Expanded work requirements by raising eligible age from 54 to 64
- Limits exception based on responsibility to care for a dependent child to those with a child under the age of 14
- Removes exceptions for homeless individuals, veterans, and those 24 and younger who aged out of foster care

USDA Memo

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/obbb-implementation>

Practical Impact on Schools

- Reduction in the number of direct certifications through iMATCH
- More families will need to complete free and reduced applications to qualify
- Encourage families who previously qualified through iMATCH to apply via the application process

Changes to Medicaid

- Changes eligibility requirements for individuals
- Cuts spending by \$1 trillion over a decade

Practical Impact on Schools

- Uncertain the extent of impact
- It is predicted Medicaid reimbursements will be reduced
- This may impact special education funding

Resource from AASA

https://www.aasa.org/docs/default-source/resources/reports/how-medicaid-cuts-will-harm-students-and-schools.pdf?sfvrsn=d4128eba_3

School Voucher Plan

- Not a traditional voucher bill
- Donors receive dollar for dollar tax credit up to \$1,700 for contributions to scholarship-granting nonprofits
- Those nonprofits then distribute the money to families seeking help paying for private school, tutoring, and other educational expenses
- Households with up to 300% of a given area's median income can qualify (approx. \$210,000 in Minnehaha, Brown, and Pennington counties, over \$275,000 in Lincoln)
- Less expansive than previous versions of the bill
- States have to opt in to this

Comment from Governor's Office

"Governor Larry Rhoden is very encouraged by the Trump Administration's commitment to school choice. We believe this program will provide families with additional opportunities that will enhance their student's education. South Dakota is proud to have the Partners in Education Tax Credit program in place, which may be a complement to this expanded opportunity."

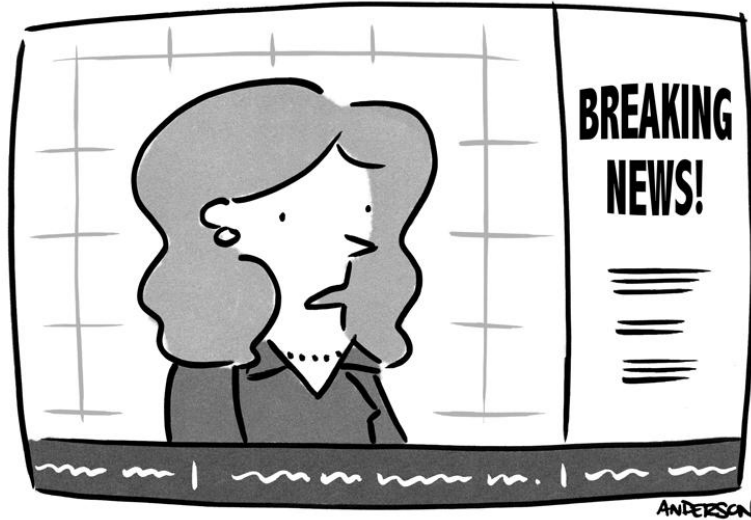
Practical Impact on Schools

- Public schools can tap into this as well
- For example, public school foundation
 - Can pay for student lunches
 - Can pay for student activity fees
 - Can pay for tutors

Pell Grants

- Expands Pell Grants for low-income students
- Targeted at community colleges and tech schools
- Good for school counselors to look into this and inform students of this change

Bill Adjacent



"Details are sketchy, so we're just going to make stuff up for a while."

President Trump Budget Cuts

- Proposing to cut \$12 billion from US DOE budget
- This includes consolidating or cutting multiple grant funding sources including:
 - Title II-A
 - Title IV-A
 - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
 - REAP
 - Title I-D
 - IDEA, Part B-619

New Grant? Patriotic Education

- This week President Trump indicated a new grant that focuses on “patriotic education”
- DOE - “Patriotic education presents American history in a way that is accurate, honest, and inspiring.”

EO August 7, 2025 - Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking

- Federal grant approvals will go through an evaluation process
- This will happen at the agency level
- Aims to align discretionary awards with policy priorities of the White House

First Amendment

Pickering, 391 U.S. 563 (1968)

“If a employee **speaks as a citizen on a matter of public concern** the district must show it had an adequate justification for treating the employee differently from any other member of the public.”

First Amendment

Garcetti, 547 U.S. 410 (2006)

“When public employees make statements **pursuant to their official duties**, the employees are **NOT** speaking as citizens for First Amendment purposes, and the Constitution does not insulate their communication from employer discipline.”

First Amendment - Balancing Test

- Courts will balance employee's 1st Amendment rights with employer's interests in an efficient, disruptive-free workplace, using these factors:
 - (1) the need for harmony in the office or workplace;
 - (2) whether the government's responsibilities require a close working relationship to exist between employee and co-workers when the speech in question has caused or could create the relationship to deteriorate;
 - (3) the time, manner, and place of speech;
 - (4) the context in which the dispute arose;
 - (5) the degree of public interest in the speech; and
 - (6) whether the speech impeded the employee's ability to perform his or her duties

Current Events

Iowa teacher fired for social media post about Charlie Kirk shooting files lawsuit against school district

South Dakota professor faces termination from SDBOR over Charlie Kirk social media posts

Our Advice

- Call your school attorney prior to adverse employment action for staff speech
 - Did the speech happen off campus and outside work hours?
 - What was the nature of the speech?
 - Did it cause a disruption in school?
- Schools, as government entities, are bound by the First Amendment protections compared to private employers

Questions?

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