

# CEC's Sequestration Q & A



## WHAT IS SEQUESTRATION?

Sequestration is the name of the automatic across the board federal funding cuts that will be imposed on select education, health and military programs starting in 2013. Basically, it's a wonky term for a budget procedure that stops federal funds from being spent, even if Congress approved them in the appropriations process.

## WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT SEQUESTRATION NOW?

Sequestration is going to begin soon! It is part of a process set in motion in the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA). The BCA is the law that allowed the US to raise its debt ceiling (meaning take on more debt). To do this, however, it required the government to cut spending in an amount equal to the amount by which it raised the debt ceiling. To decide what federal funding should be cut, Congress appointed a Joint Select Committee (referred to as the "Supercommittee") made up of members from the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans. This Supercommittee was charged with finding \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts over the next decade. If the Supercommittee failed, then sequestration (automatic across the board cuts) would occur. Well, the Supercommittee failed; and now, unless Congress changes the law, sequestration will begin.

### Expected National Cuts:

IDEA Part B Grants to States CUT by **\$903 Million**  
IDEA Part B Section 619 Program CUT by **\$29 Million**  
IDEA Part C Infants & Toddlers CUT by **\$35 Million**  
IDEA Part D National Programs CUT by **\$19 Million**  
Special Education Research CUT by **\$4 Million**

## HOW MUCH EDUCATION FUNDING WILL BE CUT?

The [Congressional Budget Office](#), the nonpartisan office that advises Congress on the budget implications of its proposals, estimates that sequestration will impose an 8% cut on all federal education programs. Thus, the entire U.S. Department of Education's budget will be reduced by approximately **\$3.5 billion**. In the chart on the left, you can see how sequestration will impact IDEA. To see how much your state will lose check out the National Education Association's estimates [www.nea.org/home/52610.htm](http://www.nea.org/home/52610.htm)

## WHEN WILL THESE CUTS BEGIN?

Sequestration will begin for most programs on January 2, 2013. But, **importantly**, the US Department of Education has issued guidance that it will not execute these cuts on funds allocated under IDEA, Titles I & II of ESEA or Perkins, until July 2013.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STOP THESE CUTS?

Contact your Representative and Senators TODAY. Tell them how much your state will lose and why this funding is important to your school, your district and children and youth with disabilities. Anyone can find out who their Representative and Senators are – just by putting their zip code into [CEC's Legislative Action Center \(LAC\)](#). It's easy and free! Use a letter we drafted about sequestration, modify it to include your state, district and personal information or start fresh and draft your own! Go to our LAC and speak out! <http://capwiz.com/cek/home/>.

## WHAT IS CEC DOING TO STOP THESE CUTS?

CEC is working hard urging every member of Congress to end these cuts and plan responsibly. Specifically, **CEC is calling on Congress** to consider the potential impact of this across-the-board cut on children and youth, families, professionals and communities before allowing these cuts to deny resources and supports to those who need them most. We can find a better way. Ask your members of Congress to *avoid sequestration and pass a balanced deficit reduction measure*.