

Eliminate Titles II, VI, and VIII of the Higher Education Act (HEA)

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$2,374	\$2,383	\$2,388	\$2,415	\$2,472	\$2,527	\$2,581	\$2,650	\$2,702	\$2,752	\$12,032	\$25,244

Heritage Recommendation:

Streamline the Higher Education Act (HEA) to reflect the law’s primary purpose of authorizing federal student aid. Specifically:

- Eliminate Title II (Teacher Quality Partnership Grants)
- Redirect funding for Title VI (area studies centers)
- Eliminate Title VIII (additional programs)

This proposal saves \$2.4 billion in 2016 and \$25.2 billion over 10 years. Data on the costs of Title VIII programs is only available for the three largest programs (totaling \$24 million), which are included in this savings estimate. Actual savings from eliminating all Title VIII programs would be greater.

Rationale:

Title II of the HEA includes Teacher Quality Partnership Grants, which are designed to enable university faculty to work with highly qualified teachers in high needs schools to provide professional development and to strengthen the content knowledge of elementary and high school teachers. Title II also includes a handful of other teacher-preparation-related grants. Such worthwhile local partnerships can take place more effectively and efficiently without federal involvement. Teacher development programs should be funded at the district level, not by federal taxpayers. Eliminating the programs that fall under Title II of the HEA provides an opportunity to reduce spending and limit federal intervention in higher education policy.

Title VI of the HEA authorizes 10 international-education programs, including area studies centers, which are designed to develop an understanding of “specific geographic regions of critical scholarly and policy importance.”⁵⁷ Although it is critical for American national security to have a network of individuals who have expertise in specific regions and languages, Congress should pursue this goal by eliminating Title VI, repealing its authorization, and redirecting Title VI funding to the National Security Education Program (NSEP). The NSEP funds studies in languages and regions critical to national security and is administered by the Department of Defense. Title VIII authorizes more than two dozen additional programs. In order to control higher education spending, Title VIII should be eliminated.

Additional Reading:

- Michael Gonzalez, “America Is Ill-Served by Its Government-Funded Area Studies and Foreign Policy Programs,” Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder* No. 2946, August 25, 2014, <http://www.Heritage.org/research/reports/2014/08/america-is-ill-served-by-its-government-funded-area-studies-and-foreign-policy-programs>.
- Lindsey M. Burke, “Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act—Toward Policies that Increase Access and Lower Costs,” Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder* No. 2941, August 19, 2014, <http://www.Heritage.org/research/reports/2014/08/reauthorizing-the-higher-education-act-toward-policies-that-increase-access-and-lower-costs>.



Calculations:

Savings from eliminating Title II are based on the FY 2014 spending level found in U.S. Department of Education, “Programs: Funding Status, 2014,” <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/funding.html>. Title VIII savings are calculated by adding the costs of the three programs for which data are available at U.S. Department of Education, “Higher Education: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request,” <http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget13/justifications/s-highered.pdf>. No savings are assumed from redirecting Title VI funding. The FY 2014 spending levels were increased at the same rate as discretionary spending over the 2016-2025 period, according to the CBO’s most recent August 2014 baseline.