

A Teacher's Guide to President Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill"



What to Know and Actions to Take

What does the bill do, and how does it impact schools?

The [bill](#)—technically titled the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” but also often called the “reconciliation bill”—is incredibly far-reaching, though three of its provisions directly impact schools.

- **Medicaid cuts:** [Cuts \\$930 billion from Medicaid](#)—health insurance coverage for low-income Americans—over ten years, increasing the number of uninsured Americans by 11.8 million. Because [many districts rely on Medicaid to fund school-based physical and mental health services](#), these changes will lead to a loss of school health staff and deprive children of health care coverage.
- **SNAP cuts:** Cuts SNAP by [requiring some states to pay for a portion of the benefits](#)—which they may not be able to do—and [expanding work requirements for adults up to age 64](#). Because SNAP eligibility and access to free school meals are intertwined, [the changes mean many students could lose access](#) to them.
- **Private school voucher program:** [Creates a new tax break for donations to organizations that provide private school scholarships](#)—often called vouchers—for students from families earning up to 300% of an area’s median income in states that opt in. Already existing state programs show that these programs [disproportionately benefit the wealthy](#), using money that could instead be spent on improving public schools.

What was unusual about the process used to pass the bill?

The bill was passed using a process called “reconciliation,” explicitly designed for spending-related legislation. It requires only 51 votes—rather than 60—to pass in the Senate, but it has very strict rules about what can be included.

This bill was passed much more quickly and with less debate than is customary for a bill so large and impactful. For example, a bill like this would usually go through a process called a “conference committee” to resolve differences between House and Senate versions. Instead, the House voted immediately on the Senate’s version. This stifles public awareness of what’s in the bill and the ability to protest it, which was essential for its passage, given [low public support for its contents](#).

What should I do in response to this?

- **Spread the word about the bill’s impact.** Though the bill is now law, many of its provisions don’t go into effect until after the 2026 midterm election. This was done intentionally to prevent voters from seeing the law’s impact until after they re-elect policymakers who passed it. But the public deserves to know what’s in this bill before they cast their votes. **Share this resource with teachers in your network to help them understand its impact.**
- **[Call on Congress to reject other education funding cuts.](#)** The Trump administration has more plans to steal funds from public schools. They are refusing to distribute nearly \$7 billion in federal education money that Congress had already approved for English learners, professional learning, and more. This is called “impoundment” and is a significant violation of federal law. Click [HERE](#) to call on your Congress Members to demand that the administration spend the already approved funds!