

EDUCATION INSIDER: FY 2022 Title I Outlook

December 2021

W/A Whiteboard
Advisors

 @WhiteBdAdvisor

 whiteboardadvisors.com

WHY EDUCATION INSIDER?



SURVEY INSIDERS



ANALYZE RESULTS



REPORT INSIGHTS



DRIVE ACTION

About Education Insider

Launched in 2009, the *Education Insider* captures insights on policy and political trends from Congressional staff, federal officials, and other Insiders close to the policymaking process.

Our goal is to cut through the noise and demystify the policymaking and political environment that surrounds Pre-K-12 and postsecondary education.

The views expressed by Insiders do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of Whiteboard Advisors or any of its employees.

Who Are the Insiders?

Leaders who are shaping federal education policy, including those who have served – or are currently serving – as policy and political influencers, such as:

- Current and former White House and U.S. Department of Education leaders;
- Current and former Congressional staff;
- State education leaders, including former state school chiefs and governors; and
- Leaders of major education organizations and think tanks, as well as other key influencers.

OVERVIEW: Title I Outlook

Education Insiders consider the likelihood of historic increases for ESEA Title I



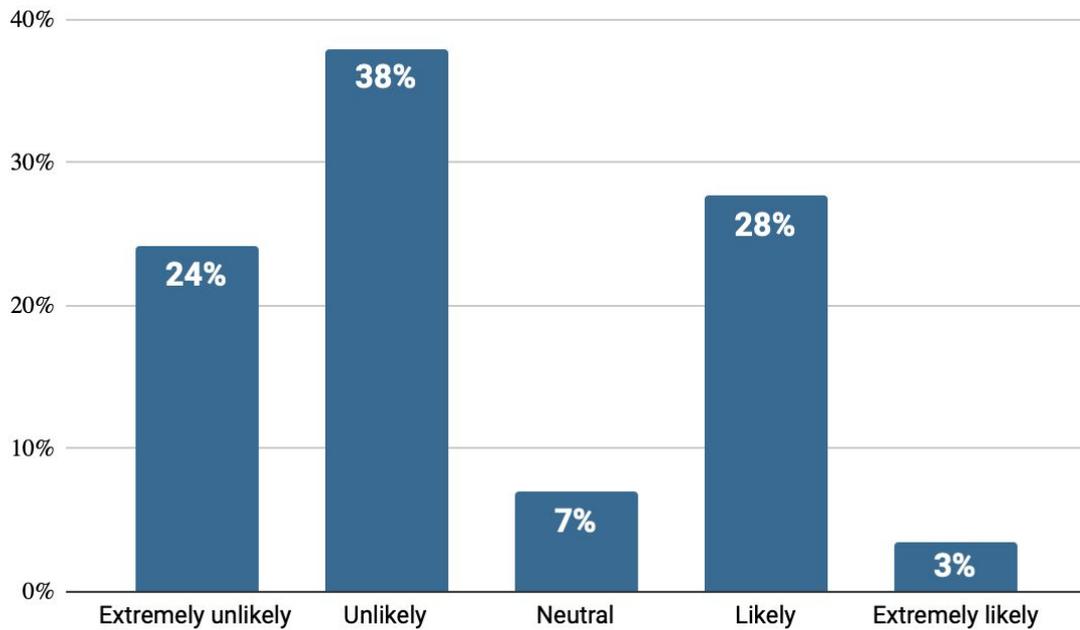
This May, President Biden proposed a historic \$20 billion increase for Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), from \$16 to \$36 billion for federal fiscal year 2022 (FY2022). Title I is the largest single source of federal funding for K-12 education, and the increase would be the most significant increase in the program's history. First introduced by President Johnson in 1965 as a supplemental funding source for students from low-income families, Title I has grown into the primary federal vehicle to fund school improvement. School officials use the funds for various activities that enhance educational programming, including teacher pay, academic intervention strategies and programs, educational technology, high-impact tutoring, and more.

Congressional Democrats support the increase. The House appropriations bill included the additional \$20B in its FY2022 bill, and Senate Democrats included an additional \$16B in their proposal. Senate Republicans, however, have not come out in support of the increase, pointing out that schools are now managing the billions Congress provided through the three pandemic stimulus bills.

The fate of the Title I increase is still being negotiated. On December 2, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution that extends current funding levels and the FY2022 negotiations through February 18, 2022. What does that mean for Title I? What is the likelihood of Congress providing a \$16-20B increase in Title I in FY22? The Education Insiders chime in.

What is the likelihood of Congress providing a \$16-20B increase in Title I in FY22?

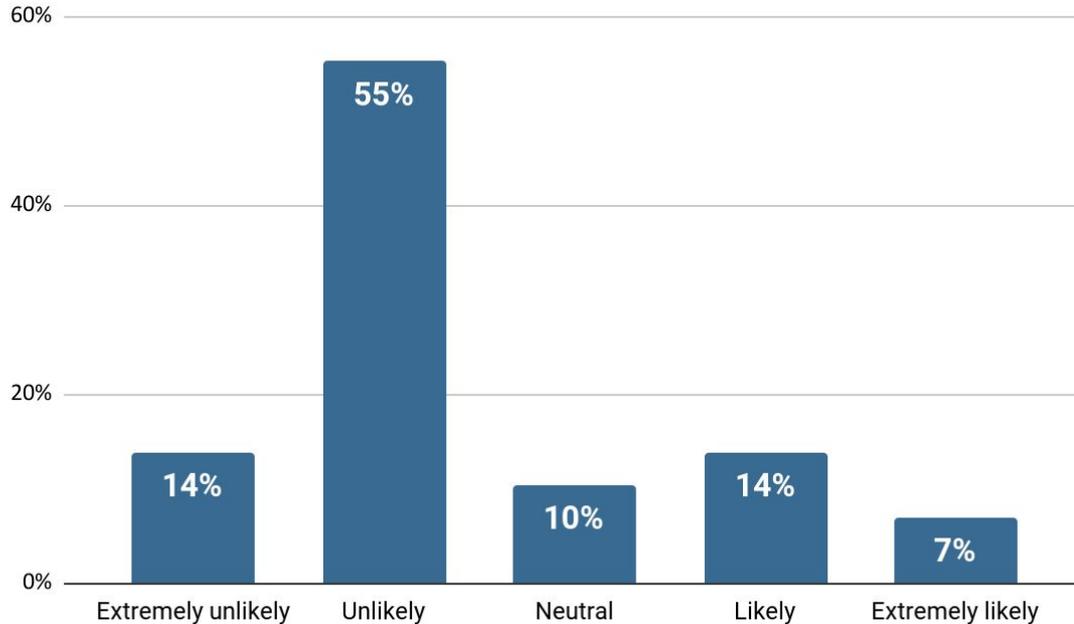
Most Insiders believe an increase is unlikely but **31 percent believe that there is still a chance.**



- + “I don’t think this level of increase can pass a **bipar senate.**”
- + “I guess anything could happen? **Money doesn’t seem like the problem right now...** it seems more about finding ways to spend the money.”
- + “Will members want more money flowing through same formulas as ESSER? Will there be **fight**s over distribution of appropriation over the four **formulas?**”

If not in FY22, what is the likelihood of Congress providing Title I increase in subsequent federal budgets?

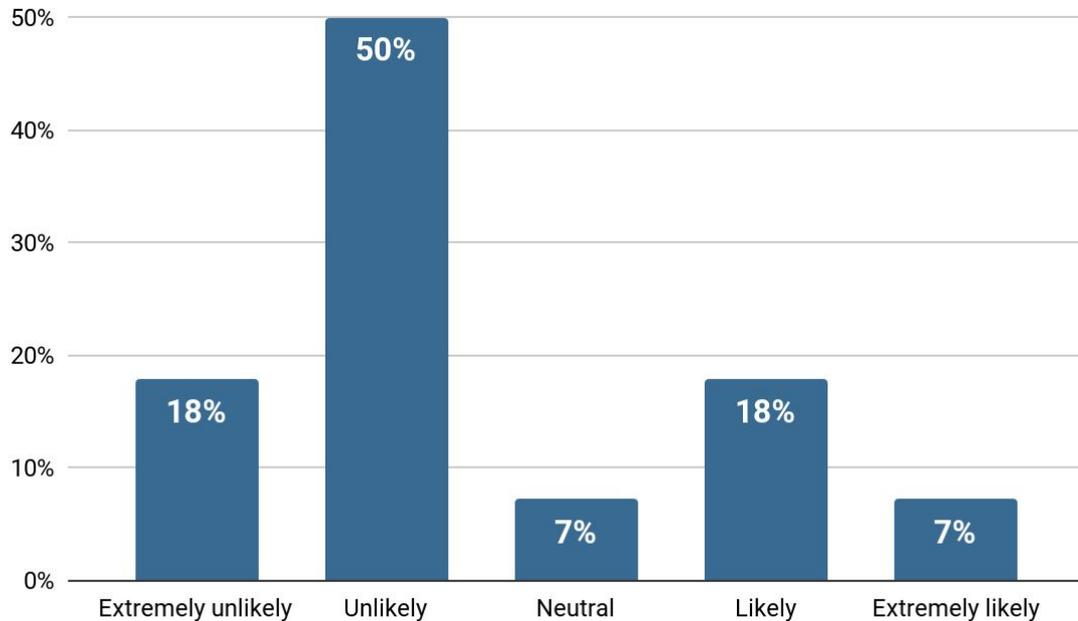
Future budget increases seem **more unlikely**.



- + “Republicans are poised to take control of the House, which makes these increases **unlikely, though not impossible** (e.g., Dems could agree to higher defense levels in exchange for higher domestic investments).”
- + “Gonna go with the obvious here: the ability to have a **sizeable increase in education funding is dependent upon Democratic majorities**. The trajectory for midterms doesn't bode well for public education (Funding level or privatization agenda, for starters).”

What is the likelihood of Congress making a significant investment into K-12 before the end of ESSER funding in 2024? (Through Title I or other vehicle)

Another vehicle is possible but **improbable**.



- + “**Congress should extend the spend out window** on the ESSER funds and should do it soon so better planning can take place.”
- + “Lots of money has already been provided, and I just don't see more being piled on top given the **prevailing political winds**.”
- + “More of ESSER will be spent by 2023 so **look to 2023 and 2024**.”



Questions?

David DeSchryver & Hillary Knudson

david@whiteboardadvisors.com

hillary.knudson@whiteboardadvisors.com