

500-1—Discretionary**Eliminate Grants to the States for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities**

(Millions of dollars)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total	
						2010–2014	2010–2019
Change in Spending							
Budget authority	-297	-299	-301	-302	-305	-1,504	-3,098
Outlays	-177	-267	-298	-300	-302	-1,344	-2,903

The states receive grants under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994 (SDFSCA) to support programs that discourage violence and the use of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs by young people in and around schools. SDFSCA funding is determined by a state's school-age population and the number of poor children who live in a state. In 2009, funding for state grants totaled \$295 million. The act stipulates that 93 percent of grant funds go to school districts for activities that address violence and drug abuse in schools, but it offers little guidance about what constitutes an effective use of those funds.

This option, which is similar to a proposal in the President's budget request for 2010, would eliminate payments to states under the SDFSCA, reducing federal outlays by about \$1.3 billion for 2010 through 2014.

An argument in support of this option is that evaluations of several programs supported by state grants have failed

to demonstrate that those programs reduce the incidence of violence and drug abuse at school. Furthermore, although violence and drug abuse in general are pressing societal issues, they are problems that rarely occur on school grounds. Despite the occasional well-publicized incident, children are more likely to be victims of violence away from school, and drug abuse occurs infrequently on school property, although it is more widespread in schools than is violent crime.

An argument against this option is that individual efforts funded under the SDFSCA could serve to raise public awareness more generally of the problems of drug abuse and violence. Furthermore, if funding for successful programs were eliminated, any resulting escalations in drug abuse and violence might require even more costly interventions by school systems and communities.

«CBO»