

# Trump says HBCUs will be “an absolute priority for this White House”

## What Trump’s HBCU executive order means for future funding



### Trump’s HBCU executive order

- Moves the Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the Dept. of Education to the Executive Office of the President in White House
- Directs the initiative to work with the private sector to strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs
- Directs it to make infrastructure improvements
- Directs it to provide job opportunities for students and work with secondary schools to create a college pipeline
- Directs the initiative to find ways to increase access and opportunity for federal grants and contracts
- It **does not** specify how much federal money the colleges should receive



Next Steps



### Congressional action

- **Budget:** HBCU presidents are calling for \$25 billion in federal funding for infrastructure, college readiness, financial aid and other priorities
  - In President Obama’s administration, HBCUs received \$4 billion over seven years
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund President Johnny Taylor said the \$25 billion is needed to make up for years of underfunding
- There are no concrete plans yet for increased funding according to GOP lawmakers

Sources: Errin Haines Whack, “Trump signs executive order on black colleges,” PBS, February 28, 2017; Lauren Burke, “Exclusive: Omarosa Manigault on Trump’s executive order on HBCUs,” NBC, March 1, 2017.

# HBCUs must rely on Congress to determine whether there will be an increase in federal funding

## Key players in HBCU funding decision-making



Sen. Tim Scott  
(R-SC)



Rep. Mark Walker  
(R-NC)



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee  
(D-TX)



Scott and Walker arranged a meeting for lawmakers, HBCU presidents, GOP officials and business leaders to discuss HBCU needs on the same day Trump signed his executive order. **Scott said he and Walker plan to personally push for more money for black colleges** and, “hopefully we will be more successful than we have been in the last few years.”

Jackson Lee is a member of the House Budget Committee. **She expressed skepticism that Trump’s executive order would make a difference** and is waiting to see what Congress does regarding HBCUs during the budget process.

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