



July 17, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary McMahon and Director Vought:

We are writing to demand the immediate release of approximately \$6.8 billion in federal education funds that Congress has already appropriated for Federal Fiscal Year 2025. The U.S. Department of Education's failure to distribute these funds is unacceptable. It disrupts school operations, undermines student services, and violates the Department's obligation to administer funding in a timely and responsible manner. Withholding this funding is unprecedented and severely limits the ability of public schools and adult education providers to implement evidence-based interventions, close learning gaps, and support students most in need. The longer the delay continues, the harder it becomes for schools to deliver on the very goal these federal programs are designed to achieve— improving student outcomes.

On June 30, the Department informed states that it would not issue Grant Award Notifications for key formula programs due to an internal review following the change in federal administrations. This delay is arbitrary, unprecedented, and indefensible. Schools and adult education providers in our states have built their budgets for the upcoming school year around these allocations, which are now left in limbo. The absence of these funds creates unnecessary chaos for schools, community college and adult education program leaders, teachers, other staff, and families preparing for the upcoming school year.

Based on state fiscal year 2025 grant awards, states were scheduled to receive approximately \$6.8 billion beginning July 1 across the following programs:

- Supporting Effective Instruction (Title II, Part A) – **\$2.2 billion**, to support local educational agencies in preparing, recruiting, and mentoring new educators and principals as well as training educators on cutting edge instructional strategies.

- English Language Acquisition (Title III, Part A) – **\$890 million**, to provide direct support to English learners and arrivals in schools, in addition to supporting professional development, targeted technical assistance, and program monitoring efforts throughout the state.
- Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Title IV, Part A) – **\$1.3 billion**, to increase capacity, provide access to well-rounded education, improve school conditions, and enhance technology and digital literacy in local educational agencies.
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B) – **\$1.4 billion**, to support grants for afterschool programming in public and private entities.
- Migrant Education (Title I, Part C) – **\$375 million**, to serve eligible students who are or whose parents are migratory workers.
- Adult Basic Education and Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE) which is funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). – **\$715.5 million**. In fiscal year 2024, the program served over 1.2 million students across the country through programs offered by community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, local schools, community-based organizations, and correctional institutions.

These funds are essential to ensuring our nation's most vulnerable students receive academic enrichment, English learner services, afterschool programming, and instruction from well-prepared educators. Delaying their release has immediate and harmful consequences, including:

- School, community college, and adult education program leaders are being forced to make impossible budgeting and staffing decisions without the federal funding they were promised and are legally entitled to receive.
- District, community college, and adult education program leaders may be forced to postpone hiring or eliminate planned instructional positions.
- Students may lose access to summer and afterschool programs, tutoring, and language supports, as well as critical literacy and numeracy training, vocational training, and workforce preparedness.
- Educators may start the year without critical professional learning and resources.

This delay is not a matter of administrative discretion; it is a failure to fulfill the Department's most basic responsibility to implement the law and distribute Congressionally-appropriated funding. It places an undue burden on schools, community colleges, and adult education providers. More importantly, it robs students of opportunities they are entitled to under federal statute.

We demand that the U.S. Department of Education immediately release all FFY25 funds under Titles I-C, II-A, III-A, IV-A, IV-B, adult education, and IELCE. There is no justification for withholding these funds. Our schools cannot wait. Our students should not have to suffer the whims of administrative overreach.

Sincerely,



Governor Katie Hobbs
State of Arizona



Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California



Governor Jared Polis
State of Colorado




Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



Governor Matt Meyer
State of Delaware



Governor JB Pritzker
State of Illinois



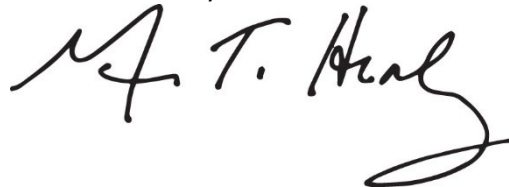
Governor Laura Kelly
State of Kansas



Governor Andy Beshear
State of Kentucky



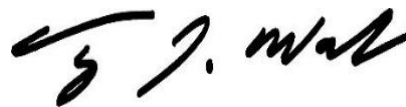
Governor Janet Mills
State of Maine



Governor Maura Healey
State of Massachusetts



Governor Gretchen Whitmer
State of Michigan



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Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
State of New Mexico



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Governor Tina Kotek
State of Oregon



Governor Dan McKee
State of Rhode Island



Governor Bob Ferguson
State of Washington



Governor Tony Evers
State of Wisconsin