

July 10, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice-Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Chairman Cole, Vice-Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to you with great concern regarding the U.S. Department of Education's withholding on July 1 of more than \$6 billion in congressionally approved FY25 K-12 education funding. The affected programs listed below are foundational to the Every Student Succeeds Act and provide funding for essential student and educator learning opportunities. We urge you to intervene and to direct the Department to release these funds to states immediately.

Under your leadership, Congress enacted and the president signed into law in March the FY25 full-year continuing resolution that provided funding for the following programs:

- Title II-A (Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants)
- Title III (English Language Acquisition grants)
- Title IV-A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment State Grants)
- Title IV-B (21st Century Community Learning Centers)
- Title I-C (Education of Migratory Children)
- Adult education state grants

School leaders have been planning and budgeting for the 2025-2026 school year accordingly based on the final appropriations figures. Indeed, schools across the nation finalized their budgets, staffing plans, and program activities based on the reasonable expectation that congressionally appropriated education funds would be made available to states and districts on July 1 as is the established custom. The Department of Education's unprecedented delay and unconvincing explanation for it have thrown all of that careful planning into disarray and left school leaders scrambling to revise their budgets and operations on the verge of the start of the new school year.

Indeed, the Department's extraordinary actions call into question not just when schools might receive their funds but whether they will at all.

As the administrators responsible for implementing these programs at the school building level, we know firsthand the devastating impact any funding delay will have. Schools are scrambling to suspend or cancel professional development initiatives for educators, English language learning support services, after-school and summer learning programs, and other critical student support services.

We urgently request bipartisan congressional leadership, led by you, the leaders of the respective House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to demand and compel the U.S. Department of Education to properly and effectively administer these funds by immediately releasing them to states so that school budgets and activities can proceed without further interruption or revision.

Sincerely,

American Federation of School Administrators
Learning Forward
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Secondary School Principals