

# NAESP Federal Relations Coordinators (FRC)

## October 2025 Meeting Summary

**Attendees:** Aaron Burd (MO), Liann Brenneman (WY), David Carpenter (AL), Jesse Davis (GA), Jeff Drouin (NH), Allison Evertz (MT), Rebecca Fillion (VT), Shannon Goo (HI), Mark Johnson (NE), Jennie Lamon (NJ), Shay Lewis (CT), Tara McAuliffe (RI), Sue Myers (MD), Nick Neiderhouse (OH), Amy Schott (VA), **Melanie Rosenberger (PA)**, John Schilling (CA), Trudy Wilson (UT), and Stephen Wiltshire (MA)

### **Government Shutdown Overview**

The federal government remains shut down, halting all non-essential activities. About 95 percent of the Department of Education's staff have been furloughed and are not checking emails or reporting to work. Only 5 percent of staff, classified as essential, continue processing college student financial aid applications. All other Department of Education operations, including rulemaking, grants management, and civil rights investigations, have been suspended.

The Trump Administration has raised the possibility of permanently laying off furloughed Department of Education staff. Essential employees who are working will not get paid until the shutdown ends. Furloughed employees are also unpaid. Once the shutdown ends, both groups will receive back pay and their regular salaries.

Beyond the Department of Education, many federal activities are paused. National parks and tourist attractions are closed, and most federal buildings are operating with minimal staff. Social Security and Medicare payments continue to be processed.

The impact on K-12 education is so far limited in the short-term because most federal formula grant programs are forward funded, notably Title I and IDEA. Some programs that could see activities interrupted are Impact Aid districts and Head Start programs. To learn more about the current government shutdown, and the impact on K-12 education see [this recent NAESP article](#).

### **FY26 Budget Outlook**

When the shutdown ends, Congress will resume negotiations on the final FY26 spending bills.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee has proposed maintaining funding for key K-12 programs like Titles I, II, and IDEA, at current levels.
- The House Appropriations Committee passed a bill that cuts Title I by 20 percent and also eliminates Titles II (professional development) and III (English language acquisition).

Beyond the threat of layoffs during the shutdown, the Office of Management and Budget has raised the possibility of widespread, permanent layoffs after the FY26 funding is enacted.

NAESP has issued an [Action Alert](#) urging Congress to support the Senate plan to maintain FY26 education funding at current levels and to reject the House plan to cut and eliminate major K-12 programs. Please share it with your state affiliates.

### **FCC Reverses E-Rate Expansion**

The Federal Communications Commission voted to rescind the Biden-era expansion broadband access to students by prohibiting E-rate funds to be used to pay for Wi-Fi on school buses and loaner home internet hotspots.

### **National Principals Month**

Join NAESP, NASSP, and AFSA on **Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. ET** for a free virtual panel discussion with NAESP President April Knight and others about the successes and challenges of being a principal and how policymakers can best support school leaders and their schools and students.

Please share out this registration link. [Register now.](#)

### **Upcoming NAESP Advocacy Conference**

Save the date for the 2026 NAESP National School Leaders Advocacy Conference, taking place February 8–11 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The conference will feature a full program of advocacy and policy sessions. We are seeking FRC volunteers to help present. More details to come. Registration will open in the coming weeks.

### **Member Engagement and Surveys**

NAESP has been surveying members to gather feedback on key advocacy priorities. A strong response rate is essential to ensure members' voices are represented. Please take a few minutes to complete them when they arrive via newsletters. In the meantime, please complete the [survey on absenteeism](#) and encourage colleagues to do so as well by distributing the link. We will report out the results when a sufficient number of school leaders have completed the survey.

### **State-Level Updates**

California leaders are exploring measures that would discourage the state's universities from adopting proposed White House changes to college administration and operations by threatening to withhold state funding.

The Trump administration has offered roughly 20 universities from around the country a deal for greater federal oversight of their institutions in exchange for preferred consideration of federal grants and contracts.