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May 9, 2025

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Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) and its more than 110 education member organizations and institutions, we write to **strongly oppose President Trump's fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget cuts to education. The proposed budget slashes funding for Department of Education programs by \$12 billion (15 percent) below what Congress provided for FY 2025 while also cutting support for education-related programs in other agencies.** The proposal's harmful cuts would affect preschoolers, students in elementary and secondary school, teachers and school leaders, adults who seek education and job training, Americans who rely on federal aid to go to college, and much more.

Department of Education funding has already declined over the last two years, leaving enacted federal support almost \$20 billion below the FY 2011 level in inflation-adjusted dollars. Many education programs have, as a result of this disinvestment, failed to keep pace with rising needs and costs. This erosion of the federal education investment has been further worsened by the Administration's unilateral actions to withhold or cancel funding this year and the existing uncertainty regarding the Administration's future plans to release the funding Congress has already enacted for FY 2025. In addition, the Congressional budget resolution includes reconciliation instructions that could result in cutting mandatory spending for education by hundreds of billions of dollars over the next ten years.

Federal investments in education fuel learning across all stages in life and are essential to our nation's continued success, yet they account for only about 2 percent of the federal budget. In contrast to the Administration's recent actions, the public [supports more education funding](#) and [does not want to eliminate the Department of Education](#).

The Administration's proposed cuts to federal support for education will make it harder for our students to achieve the American dream in the long term, will hurt local communities, and will leave our national economy less prepared to thrive in the future. CEF urges you to reject the President's harmful education cuts and to at least maintain the federal investment in education that maximizes opportunities for students and their families, schools, and our nation.

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CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the entire education continuum from cradle to career. Our members are students and parents, teachers and school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, school board members, universities and school districts, and associations all united in the goal of ensuring strong federal investment in education now and in the future.

Sincerely,



Steve Voytek
President



Sarah Abernathy
Executive Director