



## COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

March 30, 2026

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The Honorable Linda McMahon  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We write on behalf of the more than 110 education organizations, institutions, and other members of the [Committee for Education Funding \(CEF\)](#) to express deep concern that the Department of Education's (ED) Interagency Agreements (IAAs) with other federal agencies threaten the integrity and continuity of federal education investments and jeopardize those federal education investments, the students who depend on them, and the schools, institutions, and other education stakeholders that serve the nation's students. Since May 2025, ED has [announced 10 IAAs](#) that transfer day-to-day management of more than \$33 billion of its programs – impacting more than 40% of all the discretionary appropriations Congress provided for ED programs – to five other federal agencies to administer. Without clarity on staffing plans, grant management capacity, or operational timelines, these IAAs create real an immediate risk that the federal government will fail to meet its legal obligations to students, educators, and families, and that federal education investments will be severely disrupted or otherwise negatively impacted in the process. Accordingly, we urge ED to address the following questions and to do so with the urgency these legal and moral commitments demand.

Our questions include whether funding will be provided on time, whether state education agencies and other grantees will be able to access their funds in a timely manner, and whether other agencies will have sufficient staff who are qualified to oversee the programs, provide assistance, and ensure these federal funds are used as Congress intended and the law directs. The rapid revision of at least one IAA – that moved certain elementary and secondary education programs first to the Department of Labor and then, within months, to the Department of Health and Human Services – underscores the fundamental uncertainty surrounding these arrangements and calls into question whether any non-education agency has the capacity to administer formula and competitive grants, student loan programs, and support service contracts at the scale and specificity these programs require. Specifically, we ask the following:

- What actions has ED taken to ensure that the Departments of Labor, Interior, and Health and Human Services will be able to release the tens of billions of formula grant funding that the law says shall be provided on July 1 to state education agencies for multiple programs? Last fall, under the [first interagency agreement, public reporting](#)

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indicated that many state agencies experienced several months of technical challenges and delays during which they could not access formula funding. [According to your Department](#), only 43 states had successfully drawn down formula funds by December 5 – nearly three months after it began to transition grantees into a new payment and grants management system. ED has [reportedly](#) acknowledged these challenges and has indicated that by comparison, the IAAs scheduled to be implemented later this year will be even more complex and difficult to similarly transition. The funding to be distributed under the other interagency agreements is many times greater than what Labor struggled to administer last fall.

- What steps has ED taken to ensure that competitive grant programs transferred under these IAAs – including those with active grant cycles, pending applications, and ongoing performance reporting requirements – will continue to be administered without interruption? What is the timeline for notifying grantees of any system or contact changes, and which agency will be responsible for providing technical assistance during the transition?
- Will ED staff be sent to the Departments of [Interior](#), [Labor](#), Treasury, State, and [Health and Human Services](#) to manage the more than 50 programs that have been transferred to those agencies? How will staff at those non-education-focused agencies be involved in and trained on grants and loan administration and technical assistance? How will such staffing arrangements enhance the Department’s goal of reducing both federal bureaucracy and the administrative burden for those interacting with the programs?
- If grantees experience delays, errors, or loss of access to funds because of these transitions, who bears responsibility for remedying those harms? Does this responsibility reside with ED, the agency now managing the program, or both? What formal accountability mechanisms are in place and what recourse will states, institutions, and other grantees have should these efforts negatively impact existing and congressionally authorized federal education investments?

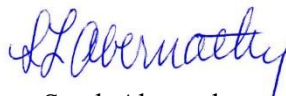
The President just last month signed into law the funding Congress approved for programs authorized at ED, ignoring the IAAs that moved programs to other agencies. Congress explicitly directed ED to fund programs at the levels and at the agencies Congress designated, writing on [page 83 of the Joint Explanatory Statement of Managers](#) accompanying the appropriations bill that “no authorities exist for the Department of Education to transfer its fundamental responsibilities under numerous authorizing and appropriations laws, including through procuring services from other Federal agencies, of carrying out those programs, projects, and activities to other Federal agencies.” Although these current federal investments in education are more than \$20 billion below the level of 15 years ago, the public [supports more education funding](#). The public also [does not want to eliminate the Department of Education](#).

CEF, the nation’s oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan and non-profit organization reflecting the education continuum. Our members are parents and students, teachers and school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, school board members, universities and school districts, and associations working to ensure that education is adequately funded.

Sincerely,



Steve Voytek  
Acting President



Sarah Abernathy  
Executive Director

CC: Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Senate HELP Committee, and the House Education and Workforce Committee.