

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Chief Financial Officers
District Federal Program Directors

FROM: Kendra M. Hunt
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: July 1, 2025

RE: Federal ESEA Grant Funding Delays – Guidance and Contingency Planning

We are writing to inform you of important developments regarding several key federal education grant programs. The U.S. Department of Education (USED) has delayed issuing allocations for multiple Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs affecting the 2025–26 school year. These include:

- **Title I, Part C** – Migrant Education
- **Title II, Part A** – Teacher and School Leader Support
- **Title III, Part A** – English Learners
- **Title IV, Part A** – Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- **Title IV, Part B** – 21st Century Community Learning Centers

While no final decisions have been made at the federal level, we must take prudent steps to prepare for all potential outcomes. This memo outlines guidance to help your team assess, plan, and protect core student services in light of the current uncertainty.

Key Points

1. **Allocations Are Delayed, Not Canceled**

USED has not released preliminary allocations for the programs listed above.

Without these, the SCDE cannot issue local funding amounts, and LEAs cannot obligate new funds as of July 1. Final grant awards typically arrive in late summer or early fall.

2. Other Allocations Are In Process, As Usual

The Department has received GANs for Title I, Part A; Title I, Part D, and McKinney-Vento programs. The Office of Federal and State Accountability has received preliminary allocations for Title IV, but no GAN as of yet. Therefore, districts should treat the Title IV allocation as a preliminary number for planning purposes.

3. Applications Should Still Be Submitted

LEAs should continue to submit federal funding applications in substantially approvable form. Doing so enables potential retroactive spending should USED approve the funds. SCDE will continue reviewing and approving plans as they are submitted.

4. This Is a Contingency Planning Moment

We are not signaling cuts or permanent reductions, but it is wise to prepare. SCDE is developing internal strategies and encourages each district to assess impacts on programming, staffing, and services should delays extend into the fall.

What We're Asking of You

By July 15:

- Review your current-year balances and any carryover funds from prior years.
- Identify essential services and expenditures that may be affected by delayed federal funds.
- Coordinate across departments to evaluate potential ripple effects, especially to vendors, staff, and students.
- Maintain documentation of all planned expenditures and budget assumptions to facilitate future reimbursement if applicable.

In the coming days:

We will provide—or invite you to request—an updated snapshot of your district's current balances for affected programs. This data will help inform your contingency plans and resource prioritization.

Ongoing:

- Use existing flexibilities, including transferability between titles, to protect critical operations.
- Reach out to your SCDE grant program contact with questions or requests for technical support as you adjust budgets or amend plans.

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We remain committed to partnering with you through this period of uncertainty and will continue to share updates as we receive more clarity from the USED. Our shared goal is to ensure no interruption in the support our students rely on.

Thank you for your continued leadership and resilience. Please contact Jewell Stanley (jstanley@ed.sc.gov) for grant program questions and Sequoyah Burden Williams (sburden@ed.sc.gov) for grants accounting questions.