

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

July 23, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon:

We write to express deep concern over the U.S. Department of Education's ongoing refusal to release billions of dollars in congressionally appropriated funding intended for public schools across the country. This inaction is not only unlawful but is already having a serious impact on students, educators, and families, especially in Wake County, North Carolina, where \$8,089,734 in critical federal support remains frozen.

Wake County Public Schools stands to be one of the top 100 school districts in the United States to lose the most funding if this money isn't distributed as Congress intended. The school system is currently being denied access to essential funding under Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction); Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition); and Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants). These programs are not optional enhancements—they help districts recruit and retain high-quality teachers, serve students who are English learners, and provide critical services like mental health support, STEM enrichment, and school safety programs.

The withholding of these funds is already disrupting hiring, delaying program planning, and reducing the capacity of Wake County educators to provide a safe, equitable, and high-quality education. Teachers are being left without professional development, schools are unable to hire needed instructional support staff, and students who rely on federal services, particularly English learners and those from underserved communities, are being shortchanged.

It is important to underscore that these funds were lawfully appropriated by Congress. The executive branch has no authority to block or delay the disbursement of this money. The continued obstruction of these funds is not only deeply harmful, but also illegal.

We urge the Department to immediately release all withheld funds, including the approximately \$8.1 million owed to Wake County Public Schools, and restore the trust and stability that our public education system urgently needs.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress