

Superintendent's Snapshot

MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 28, 2025

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Dear MUSD Parents,

On March 20, 2025, an Executive Order was issued calling for the closure of the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). While this development raises important questions for school districts across the country, including MUSD, the full impact of this order is unknown.

Information You Need to Know

The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) plays a significant role in public education by directing funding, monitoring compliance, and providing support for students.

- Federal grant funding, including Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and IDEA—though this is not an exhaustive list—is directed through the U.S. Department of Education to the Arizona Department of Education, which allocates those funds to districts in Arizona.
 - Every school in MUSD receives Title I funding.
 - IDEA funds help implement special education services at every school in MUSD.
- The Executive Order instructs the Secretary of Education to take steps toward closing the department. However, Congress must authorize such a closure, and that has not occurred.
- Initial reports suggest that some funding streams—such as IDEA and Title I—will be preserved and reassigned to other federal agencies.

Data We are Monitoring

- Grant Continuity – We are actively seeking clarity on whether programs like Title III (English Learners), Title II (Staff Development), and multi-year grants such as Project Momentum and others will continue without interruption.
- Infrastructure – Even if funding remains in place, the systems used to manage those funds—including compliance tools, reporting platforms, and technical assistance—could be affected by ongoing staffing reductions and internal restructuring at the federal and state levels.
- Communication – MUSD relies on established relationships with state-level federal grant specialists to implement federally funded programs. A shift in federal oversight could disrupt that flow of communication, delay essential guidance, and create uncertainty in program implementation.

Steps We are Taking

As the situation unfolds, we are:

- Monitoring developments closely through our state and federal partners
- Documenting any changes or disruptions in service, guidance, or funding
- Anticipating direction from the Arizona Department of Education.

Regardless of what lies ahead, our purpose is unchanged—we stand together in our commitment to our students, staff, and families.

Thank you for choosing MUSD.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tracey Lopeman, Superintendent
Maricopa Unified School District

