**February 4, 2026**

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

Today we are sharing the following updates:

- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) update on FY2026 federal appropriations package

**Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) update on FY2026 federal appropriations package**

We received the following update from CCSSO yesterday afternoon:

*Today, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 217-214 to pass a fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations package through the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2026. This package includes five federal spending bills, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) bill, which funds the U.S. Department of Education (ED).*

*The Senate advanced this package last week while the House was in recess, resulting in a four-day partial federal shutdown when the continuing resolution (CR) that had been temporarily funding many federal agencies expired Friday night. The president is expected to sign this legislation quickly, ending the temporary lapse in funding. Congress has now completed work on 11 of the 12 FY 2026 federal funding bills; funding for the Department of Homeland Security is provided under a CR through Feb. 13.*

*The LHHS appropriations bill approved today includes the same funding levels as the bill approved by the House on Jan. 22. Here are notable changes in K-12 funding levels over last year's funding levels:*

- *ESEA Title I: $20 million increase, to total $18.427 billion*
- *IDEA Grants to States (Part B): $20 million increase, to total $14.234 billion*
- *Rural Education: $5 million increase, to total $225 million*
- *Head Start and Child Care Development Block Grants: $85 million increases to each program*
- *Education Innovation and Research: $24 million decrease, to total $235 million*

- *Most other K-12 programs are level funded at FY 2025 funding levels*

*CCSSO was encouraged to see Congress reaffirm in statutory text the funding timelines for certain formula grants upon which states rely. The legislation states that the Secretary of Education must award formula grants to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and certain other key federal laws on the dates these funds become available to the Secretary for obligation.*

*As a reminder, once this legislation is signed into law, ED is funded through the end of the current federal fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2026. For most of ED's major formula programs, these are the appropriations that will be used to award grants on or around July 1, 2026. Those awards will then be available for 27 months.*

Warm Regards,

Susana Córdova