April 8, 2026

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Today we are sharing the following updates:

- State Board of Education April meeting update
- Reminder: release of 2026 TLCC data
- US Department of Education and US Department of Labor announce grants
- CCSSO update on the federal budget

State Board of Education April meeting update

Today was the first day of the State Board of Education's April meeting. During today's meeting, the board:

- Voted to approve revisions to the rules Educator Recruitment and Retention (ERR) Program (1 CCR 301-113) which will increase the number of people who receive financial assistance by lowering the maximum award from $10,000 to $7,500; and
- Discussed proposed rules for the Administration of Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness **Sustain** Funding (1 CCR 301-117) and will consider and possibly vote on amendments to these rules during tomorrow's meeting.

Tomorrow's meeting includes:

- An update on the budget and legislative session;
- A discussion related to the upcoming rulemaking hearing for 1 CCR 301-1, Rules for the Administration of Statewide Accountability Measures for which written feedback is still being accepted; and
- Notices of rulemaking for the Rules for the Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of School Transportation Vehicles and the Colorado Minimum Standards for Governing School Transportation Vehicles.

Additionally, the board has a work-session scheduled on Friday, April 10 that will include discussions of School Finance Modernization: Framing SBOE Vision and Priorities for Updates to School Finance Structures for Online and Part-time Enrichment and the Colorado Academic Standards for math. You can visit our website to view the meeting livestream and find meeting agendas and information about board actions on Board Docs.

Update on TLCC results release timeline

As a reminder, we will release the results of the 2026 Teaching and Learning Conditions Colorado Survey on April 14. You and your district accountability contacts received data on April 6 under embargo until 9am on April 14.

- April 10 by 12pm: embargoed press release shared with superintendents and district communicators; media advisory for briefing goes to press contacts and district communicators
- April 14: embargo lifts at 9am; press release goes out; virtual media briefing at 1:30pm *(please note that the media briefing time has changed)*

CCSSO update on the federal budget

We received the following update on the federal budget from the Council of Chief State Schools Officers:

On Friday [April 3], the Trump Administration released its budget request for federal fiscal year (FY) 2027, which begins on October 1, 2026. The budget request for the U.S. Department of Education proposes that Congress fund U.S. Department of Education (ED) discretionary programs at $75.7 billion, approximately $3 billion or 3.9% below the current FY 2026 funding level.

The President's budget request again proposes the consolidation of 17 K-12 ED grant programs into a single consolidated grant, newly designated the Make Education Great Again (MEGA) grant for FY 2027. The administration proposed similar program consolidations for FY 2026, but Congress refrained from making the proposed consolidations. The budget request also proposes the elimination of 12 ESEA grant programs, including ESEA Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition) and Comprehensive Centers....The budget also proposes consolidating seven IDEA programs into one grant with a 3.5% increase overall.

US Department of Education and US Department of Labor announce grants

The US Department of Education and US Department of Labor have announced their first grant competitions under the Elementary and Secondary Education Partnership:

- Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) – IAL supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need local educational agencies and schools.
- Teacher and School Leader Incentive (TSL) – TSL supports entities in implementing, improving, or expanding their Human Capital Management System, which must include a performance-based compensation system.

These grant opportunities are open to independent school districts.

Warm Regards,

Susana Córdova