

Jan. 28, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

We know that you are monitoring this morning's news about the federal administration's intent to "temporarily pause all activities related to obligations or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance." We are working to understand potential implications of this "pause" and will share more information as soon as we have it.

At 10:24 am MT, the Council of Chief State Schools Officers sent this message to our offices:

Dear Chiefs, Deputies, Federal Liaisons, and Communications Directors,

As of Noon ET today, our best understanding is that the Office of Management and Budget's memo ordering federal agencies to "temporarily pause" activities related to obligations or disbursement of federal financial assistance will not impact federal formula funds that have already been obligated and awarded. Our interpretation is formula funds such as ESSER, ESEA, and IDEA would be exempt from this pause.

The Department is aware of the need to provide clarity to state education agencies. We will continue to keep you updated and let you know if any of this information changes.

Please know that we are working urgently on this issue and will continue to update you as we get more information.