

**Feb. 3, 2025**

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

As I shared at the end of last week, there were two new executive orders (available [here](#) and [here](#)) issued at the federal level on Friday that related to K-12 education. With respect to the federal funding freeze, a federal court issued a temporary order that bars the implementation of the freeze. Additionally, the memo directing a pause on the federal funding was rescinded on Jan. 29.

We recognize there are many questions with respect to the federal actions. As we continue to work to understand the implications of the recent federal actions, here is some information we can share:

- These executive orders are directives to federal agencies, not to CDE or local education agencies. The executive order related to curriculum in schools gives the federal Department of Education 90 days to bring forward a plan to implement the executive order.
- Some of the directives in the executive order are not currently allowed in law. For example, federal law currently expressly prohibits the federal government from interfering with local curriculum.
- For that reason, we need to wait and see what the Department of Education brings forward in their plan to implement the executive order.
- CDE has not yet received any communications from the federal Department of Education regarding existing grant funding and the imposition of grant conditions.
- If and when CDE receives such communications, we will review them to determine what, if any, steps are required of us in response.

We will continue to share information with you as we get more direction from the federal Department of Education.

Additionally, you may be aware that on Friday, Jan. 31, sponsors introduced a bill in the US House to “abolish the Department of Education and to provide funding directly to states for elementary and secondary education, and for other purposes.” We are monitoring its progress closely.

As a reminder, the State of Colorado continues to have laws in place that protect individuals from discrimination and harassment in schools on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family composition, religion, age, national origin, or ancestry.

Thank you for your ongoing focus to support the students and educators in Colorado.