

Apr. 14, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES leaders,

Today I am sharing updates on the following:

- [Court ruling related to withholding of federal funds due to alleged Title IX violation](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education begins process to restrict federal funds to Maine](#)

Court ruling related to withholding of federal funds due to alleged Title IX violation

As you may know, the [US Department of Agriculture announced on April 2](#) that it was pausing federal funds to the State of Maine for technology, training, and administrative costs related to the school lunch program. USDA said this was based on violations of Title IX. [Following a lawsuit filed by the Office of the Maine Attorney General \(AG\), a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order](#) that requires the USDA to unfreeze the funding. The court described how the freeze was not appropriate because it did not follow the process described below. [You can find a full copy of the order on the website for the Maine AG.](#)

The process that must occur before the federal government restricts federal financial assistance due to an alleged failure to comply with federal civil rights laws like Title IX and Title VI includes the following:

- First, the Office of Civil Rights must open an investigation and make a finding that there was a violation of the federal civil rights laws.
- Then, the federal government is required to work with the entity to achieve voluntary compliance.
- If voluntary compliance cannot be achieved, the federal agency must take several other actions before it can restrict federal funds.
 - First, the entity must have an opportunity for a hearing *and* the administrative judge must make a finding on the record that there has been a violation of federal civil rights laws.
 - Second, the federal agency must file with the federal House and Senate a full written report of the circumstances and grounds for such action.
 - No action to restrict federal funding can occur until thirty days have passed from the filing of such a report.
 -

U.S. Department of Education begins process to restrict federal funds to Maine

The U.S. Department of Education [announced on Friday that it would initiate the process described above](#) to terminate federal funding based on alleged violations of Title IX. This will begin with an administrative hearing where the judge will decide whether allowing

transgender students to participate in sports violates the rights of non-transgender students under Title IX. It is also anticipated that the U.S. Department of Justice will file a lawsuit against Maine to “enforce” the Title IX rights.

Warm regards,

Susana Córdova