

**July 7, 2025**

Dear superintendents and BOCES directors,

Today, I am sharing the following updates:

- [CDE Update on Resources on Federal Funding Delay](#)
- [CDE Update on ESEA Consolidated Application Process](#)
- [US Department of Education Announces NCES Acting Commissioner](#)
- [CDE Update on Substantial Approval Letters](#)

**CDE Update on Resources on Federal Funding Delay-**

We have created a “heatmap” of the impact of federal funding delays on our districts and BOCES. You can find it at [www.cdeinfo.org/funding](http://www.cdeinfo.org/funding). This page also includes a link to a Google sheet with federal funding information that we will continue to update as we know more.

**CDE Update on ESEA Consolidated Application Process-** *please note this section is long and should be shared with your federal programs team members.*

On July 1, we received the Grant Award Notification for Title I, Part A and D, but no other ESEA programs that can be consolidated. As you know, Colorado has an ESEA Consolidated Application that encourages blending and braiding of funds to strategically accomplish improvement goals. This approach is considered best practice in administration of ESSA programs. However, the delay in allocations for certain ESSA funding streams has complicated our usual ESEA Consolidated Application processes.

In an effort to be as flexible as possible, a few pathways have been created to align with the needs of LEAs. As a first step, the LEA should consider whether ESEA funds will need to be drawn down over the next few months. The LEA should also determine if any remaining prior year ESEA funds or carryover funds could be used to cover costs that would have otherwise been charged to programs for which we do not yet have an allocation (e.g., IIA or IIIA).

The 2025-2026 ESEA funds that the State has received can be obligated as soon as the LEA has received the substantial letter from CDE. Substantial letters for the programs currently in the Consolidated Application (namely Title I, Parts A and D) can be sent as soon as the required components have been uploaded and the submission form has been sent to CDE. As previously communicated, obligating any other program funds for which the LEA does not yet have substantial approval (e.g., IIA or III) should be tracked using separate accounting codes in the event those costs have to be paid out of other funds.

- If the LEA needs to be able to draw down funds over the summer and before September 30, 2025, the LEA has the option of leaving any remaining 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 funds in the 2024-2025 Consolidated Application:
  - The LEA’s 2024-2025 Consolidated Application will remain open for any LEAs with remaining funds in the current application so the funds can be accessed (spent and drawn down) until 9/30/25.
  - LEAs must submit a Post Award Revision (PAR) and be approved in order to use funds in July-September. PARs are due by **July 18, 2025**.
- If the LEA has already drawn down all of the 2024-2025 expenditures and is ready to move any remaining carryover funds into the 2025-2026 Consolidated Application:

- Complete the LEA's Final Expenditure Report (FER). When the FER is approved by CDE, any remaining balances will be carried forward into the 2025-2026 Consolidated Application.

NOTE: This will allow LEAs to budget funds but not draw down funds until final approval.

- If the LEA cannot yet submit the FER because 2024-2025 expenditures are still being closed out, the LEA will have the option of budgeting anticipated carryover in the 2025-2026 Consolidated Application based on the LEA's projected carryover amounts until the FER is finalized and actual carryover amounts are officially carried forward.
  - This will cause the amount budgeted to exceed the amount available in the system.
  - LEAs will be unable to receive final approval until the LEA's budget is balanced. In order for the budget to be balanced with carryover included, the LEA will need to submit their Final Expenditure Report (FER) so that official carryover can be transferred into the 2025-2026 Consolidated Application. After the official carryover is added, the LEA must make any adjustments needed to the tentative budget that had been submitted for substantial approval to balance the budget.

NOTE: LEAs with FY23 funds that will expire on September 30, 2025 should leave those funds in the 2024-2025 Consolidated Application to ensure that funds can be requested.

Please remember that funds cannot be drawn down nor can the LEA submit a request for reimbursement, until the LEA has **final** approval.

The Federal Programs and Supports Unit's next Office Hours will be on Thursday, July 17 from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to your LEA's [Regional Contact\(s\)](#), [Laura Meushaw](#), [Tammy Giessiner](#), or [Nazie Mohajeri-Nelson](#).

### **CDE Update on Substantial Approval Letters**

LEAs that have already submitted a substantially approvable application will be receiving their substantial approval letter authorizing obligation of Title I, Parts A and D via GAINS in the next few days. LEAs that have requested and been awarded an extension on submitting the Consolidated Application will receive their substantial approval letter after they submit their substantially approvable application. When the remaining title funds become available, CDE will send substantial approval letters for those funds to LEAs that have already submitted their substantially approvable application (which includes signed general assurances).

### **US Department of Education Announces NCES Acting Commissioner**

The US Department of Education shared a press release today [announcing the appointment of Dr. Matthew Soldner](#) as acting commissioner for the National Center for Education Statistics.

Warm Regards,

Susana Cordova