

September 22, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

The Honorable Diana Diaz, Assistant Secretary (Acting)  
Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services  
U.S. Department of Education  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon and Assistant Secretary Diaz:

We write on behalf of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), and the undersigned organizations to urge you to maintain all current grants under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These grants function as the framework for implementation of the IDEA, daily providing close to 8 million children and youth with disabilities a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive educational environments.

Grantees are committed to fulfilling the requirements set forth when grant awards were received. These grants serve multiple critical functions: Providing teachers and specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) the most current research and best practices, ensuring parents and families have the best information and supports to be full and meaningful participants in their children's education, addressing the critical educator shortage through support for teacher and SISP preparation programs, providing assistive and inclusive technology to support barrier-free learning, and affording school districts the technical assistance to provide a strong special education system overall.

We appreciate that the majority of the grants will continue to be funded for the current grant cycle as intended by Congress through the FY 2025 funding law. Additionally, both the Senate and House FY 2026 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills have acknowledged the importance of these programs by specifically maintaining their individual integrity and funding streams. We urge you also to maintain *all* current grants as originally awarded and retain these grants going forward to ensure all children and youth with disabilities have the best opportunities to succeed in school and beyond.

Sincerely,

Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)

AASA, The School Superintendents Association  
Access Points, LLC  
Access Ready, Inc.  
ACVREP  
Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans  
Allies for Independence  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Council of the Blind  
American Council of the Blind of Indiana, Inc.  
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

APNI Inc.  
Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired  
Association for Special Children and Families  
Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment, Inc.  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA)  
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (AVRT)  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
AVIT  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Beaver County Association for the Blind  
Braille Authority of North America (BANA)  
Bucks County Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
California Transcribers & Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
CAST, Inc.  
Center of Vision Enhancement  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Communication 4 ALL  
CommunicationFIRST  
Community Services for Sight  
Council for Exceptional Children  
DGCKids  
Disability Belongs  
Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)  
Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children (DLD)  
EDGE Partners  
EdTrust  
EduColor  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Exceptional Children's Assistance Center  
Experts On Blindness  
Family Connection of SC  
Family Voices NJ  
Federation for Children with Special Needs  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
FIRSTwnc  
Higher Education Consortium of Special Education (HECSE)  
INCLUDEnyc  
Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.  
Keystone Blind Association  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Lighthouse for the Blind  
Lighthouse for the Blind, St. Louis

Lighthouse Louisiana  
Lighthouse Works  
Maine Parent Federation  
Metropolitan Parent Center  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)  
National Association of the Deaf  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Center for Teacher Residencies  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Education Association  
National Family Association for DeafBlind (NFADB)  
National PLACE  
National PTA  
National Respite Coalition  
National School Boards Association  
NBJS  
New York Institute for Special Education  
Northeast Sight Services  
Northwest Regional Education Service District  
Orientation and Mobility Specialist Association  
Parent Information Center of Delaware  
Parent Network of WNY  
Parent to Parent of Georgia  
Parents Reaching Out  
PAVE  
PEAK Parent Center  
Pennsylvania Association for the Blind  
RIPIN  
School Social Work Association of America  
SELF  
Sight Center of NW PA  
Sights for Hope  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.  
St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Success Beyond Sight  
Tallahassee Council of the Blind  
TASH  
Teach Plus  
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
The Carroll Center for the Blind  
The Center for Learner Equity

The Parents' Place of MD  
The University of Arizona  
United States International Council on Disabilities  
Venango County Association for the Blind  
VIA Visually Impaired Advancement  
VIPS (Providing Early Vision Interventions and Parental Supports)  
VisAbility  
Vision Forward Association  
Vision Services of Washington-Greene  
VisionCorps  
VisionServe Alliance  
WI FACETS  
Wills Mobility & Vision Services  
Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired  
Yosemite Gateway Council of the Blind  
ZERO TO THREE

Cc: Senator Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Patty Murray, Ranking, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Chair, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Tammy Baldwin, Ranking, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Bill Cassidy, Chair, Senate HELP Committee  
Senator Bernie Sanders, Ranking, Senate HELP Committee  
Rep. Tom Cole, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking, House Appropriations Committee  
Rep. Robert Aderholt, Chair, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
Rep. Tim Wahlberg, Chair, House Education and Workforce Committee  
Rep. Bobby Scott, Ranking, House Education and Workforce Committee

CASE, [the Council of Administrators of Special Education](#), is the largest division of the [Council for Exceptional Children](#). With over 6,000 members, it is the professional organization of choice for special education administrators across the country. CASE provides leadership to advance the field of special education through professional learning, policy, and advocacy. *CONTACT*: Phyllis Wolfram at (417)-427-7720.

[The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates \(COPAA\)](#) is a national nonprofit of over 3700+ parents, attorneys, advocates, and related professionals; over 90% of members identify as having a disability or are parents or family members of individuals with disabilities. Working to protect student civil rights and secure excellence in education, COPAA serves as a national voice for the 9.5 million children with disabilities. The mission of COPAA is grounded in the belief that every child deserves the right to a quality education that prepares them for meaningful employment, higher education, and full participation in their community.