

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

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

Director Vought and Secretary McMahon:

After causing confusion and consternation, we were relieved when your offices finally released more than \$20 million in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers funding for summer and after school programs due to Arizona schools. However, significant funding remains outstanding. Today, we demand you immediately release the remaining \$110 million<sup>1</sup> in withheld federal education dollars for the State of Arizona.

The withheld funds are investments in student success—funding student support staff, teacher onboarding and professional development, and English language learning programs. Arizona school districts start the school year earlier than most—some districts have already started the school year—and school officials expected to receive these dollars on July 1. They approved budgets and hired staff with the expectation of this funding. Now, they face incredible uncertainty.

This freeze on Congressionally-appropriated funding is especially disturbing as recent reporting indicates the White House is eyeing education dollars for a future rescissions package.<sup>2</sup> Already underfunded Arizona schools rely on federal dollars to serve students, and a claw back of funding would have a devastating impact on Arizona kids.

Here are the real-world costs:

- **Program and staff cuts:** multiple school districts (rural, urban, big, and small) have told us that without these dollars, they will be forced to cut critical programs and personnel including English Language intervention programs, community education programs, and curriculum and instruction staff. One district has specified that its English Language programming is essential to support families employed in Arizona's growing semiconductor manufacturing industry.
- **Adult education funding:** Arizona community colleges utilize federal funding to run adult education programs that help students obtain their high school equivalencies and get real world job training in critical fields such as healthcare, chip manufacturing, and construction. Nearly \$5.9 million for adult education is being withheld from Maricopa Community Colleges.

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<sup>1</sup> "President Trump Illegally Steals \$5.5 Billion from Public Schools." House Appropriations Committee Democrats, [democrats-appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-appropriations.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/CR2%20State%20by%20State.pdf](https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-appropriations.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/CR2%20State%20by%20State.pdf). Accessed 24 July 2025.

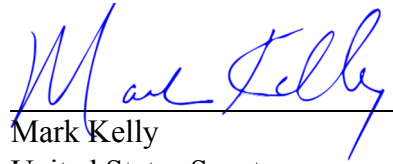
<sup>2</sup> Razor, Calen, et al. "White House Eyeing Education Cuts for next Funding Clawback Package." *Politico Pro*, 22 July 2025, [subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/07/white-house-education-cuts-clawback-package-00468856](https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2025/07/white-house-education-cuts-clawback-package-00468856).

- ***School resource officers:*** according to the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction,<sup>3</sup> some of these dollars are utilized to fund school resource officers, ensuring student safety on campus. Districts have echoed this, concerned that school resource officer salaries will be at risk.

Our students and teachers deserve better. You must follow the law and the intent of Congress and release this funding to Arizona immediately.

Sincerely,

  
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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress

  
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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator

  
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Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator

  
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Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress

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<sup>3</sup> Sarabia, Steven. "Arizona School Resource Officer Program Faces Federal Funding Delay." <https://www.azfamily.com>, AZ Family, 22 July 2025, [www.azfamily.com/2025/07/22/arizona-school-resource-officer-program-faces-federal-funding-delay/?utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.azfamily.com/2025/07/22/arizona-school-resource-officer-program-faces-federal-funding-delay/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email).