



## ITCA Update

March 3, 2025

This week's update reports on activities occurring in Washington DC related directly to our mission and purpose. The House and Senate continue to work on a final budget resolution and on the March 14<sup>th</sup> expiration of the Continuing Resolution (CR). This Tuesday night, President Trump will present to a Joint Session of Congress. ITCA will continue to provide federal updates on Monday of each week.

**U.S. Department of Education** The nomination of Linda McMahon as the Secretary of the Department of Education is expected to be approved by the full Senate Monday night. The anticipated Presidential Executive Order related to the dismantling of the department is expected to be released soon after the nomination is approved, as early as tomorrow evening.

It is important to remember that the department cannot be eliminated, and IDEA cannot be amended, without Congressional action. One of the first possible actions of the new Secretary may be to move the administration of IDEA to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). During Ms. McMahon's Senate testimony, she indicated she thought IDEA would be better administered under HHS.

**New ED Portal Announced to End DEI** A new portal in the Department of Education website allows reporting of "possible discriminatory practices." The announcement indicates a "Commitment to ensuring all students have access to meaningful learning free of divisive ideologies and indoctrination." A link to a submission form to report possible discriminatory practices is located at <https://enddei.ed.gov/>

According to the announcement, the portal has been created as an "outlet for students, parents, teachers, and the broader community to report illegal discriminatory practices at institutions of learning." The Department of Education will utilize community submissions to identify potential areas for investigation.

**New Executive Order Designates English the Official Language of the US** The President has issued a new executive order that declares English to be the official language of the United States. According to the new executive order issued March 1, 2025, "A nationally designated language is at the core of a unified and cohesive society, and the United States is strengthened by a citizenry that can freely exchange ideas in one shared language."

The new order located at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/designating-english-as-the-official-language-of-the-united-states/> is established to "promote unity, cultivate a shared American culture for all citizens,

ensure consistency in government operations, and create a pathway to civic engagement.” The order indicates that agency heads “should make decisions as they deem necessary to fulfill their respective agencies’ mission and efficiently provide Government services to the American people. Agency heads are not required to amend, remove, or otherwise stop production of documents, products, or other services prepared or offered in languages other than English. “

**FFY 2025 Funding** Halfway through the FFY 2025 year, there are no final funding levels for federal programs. This year began October 1, 2024, and continues through September 30, 2025. These are the funds states will receive in July 1, 2025, Part C awards. The current Continuing Resolution (CR) keeps the government open at last year’s funding levels until March 14, 2025, when the CR expires.

No agreement has been reached yet on what will occur next. Some members want to extend the CR and keep working on reaching agreement on funding levels. Others want to extend the CR through the year until September 30, 2025. There is still significant disagreement on whether to include language committing the Executive Branch to spend any funds appropriated by the Congress. There is also disagreement on whether to include some of the cuts already made by the Executive Branch. If no agreement can be reached to extend the CR, there will be a government shut down.

**Budget Resolution** The full Senate and full House have passed a budget resolution. These two versions of the budget must be reconciled and a final budget passed by both chambers. The final budget resolution will not set cuts for specific programs but will direct committees to determine cuts for specified programs.

The Senate version of the Budget Resolution, smaller than the House bill, would increase defense, energy, and border security funding by more than \$300 billion. These increases would be paid for by cuts to other programs, possibly Medicaid, SNAP, and education. The Senate plans to pass tax provisions and deeper cuts to pay for them in a later bill.

The House bill is likely to result in the loss of about \$800 billion in Medicaid and \$230 billion in SNAP services over 10 years. The bill also includes \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts. President Trump has announced that he prefers the larger House bill that already includes tax cut provisions.