



ITCA Update

April 7, 2025

This week's update reports on activities occurring in Washington DC directly related to our mission and purpose. Congress plans to adjourn for a two-week spring recess at the end of this week. ITCA will continue to provide federal updates on Monday of each week.

Senate Passes New Budget Resolution Early Saturday morning, the Senate passed a new budget resolution by a vote of 51-48. This action moves the process one step closer to permitting a reconciliation process later this year. This will allow the Senate to pass a bill by a simple majority instead of needing 60 votes. The final reconciliation bill is expected to combine tax cuts, border, energy, and defense provisions with significant cuts in domestic programs.

The bill will now be considered in the House. There is opposition to the Senate version by House members that want additional cuts to domestic programs. Even if the House passes this budget resolution this week, there are still disagreements to resolve about the level of cuts that will be necessary to offset the tax cuts in the final reconciliation bill. The current Senate budget plan only requires a minimum of a few billion in deficit reduction, much lower than the House bill.

The advocacy community is focused on efforts to ensure there will not be significant cuts made to Medicaid and SNAP. There are some scenarios that would cut Medicaid as much as \$800 billion.

State Required to Certify Compliance with Civil Rights Law. On April 3rd, Chief State School Officers in all states received a letter from the Department of Education requiring them to certify their compliance with anti-discrimination obligations in order to continue receiving federal financial assistance.

A press release, posted on the Department of Education website, provides additional information and background for this required certification. This includes the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#) to educational institutions receiving federal funds and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) released to answer questions related to the DCL. These were both released in February 2025.

The press release is located at: <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/ed-requires-k-12-school-districts-certify-compliance-title-vi-and-students-v-harvard-condition-of-receiving-federal-financial-assistance>

According to the notice, State Education Agencies (SEAs) are responsible for reporting on their state overall and collecting certification responses from their local education agencies. SEAs have 10 days to sign and [return the certification](#). It is not

clear if Part C lead agencies will receive a similar notice or if Part C is included in those states in which Education is the lead agency and school districts provide early intervention services.

Recent Executive Branch Announcements

- Diana Diaz-Harrison has been appointed as OSERS Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Education. She is the founder and CEO at Arizona Autism Charter Schools, Inc.
- Laurie Todd-Smith, Ph.D. has been named Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development in the Department of Health and Human Services. She was most recently at the America First Policy Institute as director of the Center for Education Opportunity and the Center for the American Child.
- The Senate approved Dr. Mehmet Oz to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by a vote of 53 to 45.

HHS Regional Offices Shut Down Health and Human Services announced the consolidation of its 10 regional offices into 5 offices. Regional offices in Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle, and San Francisco were closed effective April 1, 2025. Both Head Start and Child Care programs are affected by this action.

OSEP Projects Canceled Several projects under the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) have been canceled including 84.325K “Preparation of Early Intervention and Special Education Personnel Serving Children with Disabilities who have High-Intensity Needs.” The Department of Education has notified applicants that these projects will not be funded. The notice indicates that “This change ensures that all priorities and requirements for the Department’s FY 2025 grant competitions align with the objectives established by the Trump Administration while fostering consistency across all grant programs.”

In addition, the “Technical Assistance Center on Transition for Students and Youth with Disabilities” has been withdrawn as well as awards for the State Professional Development Grant (SPDG) program.