

## Memo to School Leaders on Title II and Other Funding July 10, 2025 From the ACSI Public Policy and Legal Affairs Team

The ACSI Public Policy & Legal Affairs Department (PPLA) and others are getting calls from member schools about the Title II funding question. This memo seeks to answer those questions, give an overview of what to expect, and an avenue for feedback.

The Trump Administration announced via email June 30, 2025, that it would withhold federal education funds that were due to be released the next day, July 1, 2025. Those funds included Title II and four others. The five programs are as follows and total \$6.8 billion according to Education Week (6/30/2025):

- Title I-C for migrant education (\$375 million)
- Title II-A for professional development (\$2.2 billion)
- Title III-A for English-learner services (\$890 million)
- Title IV-A for academic enrichment (\$1.3 billion)
- Title IV-B for before- and after-school programs (\$1.4 billion)

The article quotes the Administration thus: "Decisions have not been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year," the email reads. "Accordingly, the Department will not be issuing Grant Award Notifications obligating funds for these programs on July 1 prior to completing that review."

This does mean the funds are indeed under review. Once the review is over, the Administration will take the next step. It may choose to release the funds after all or pursue a recission bill in Congress to authorize eliminating the funding, the two usual options. But, during the review, the funds are in abeyance. The states will not get the funding until the review is done, which means the local education agencies (LEAs) will not be able to provide equitable services to private schools for which the funds would otherwise pay. To be clear, the funds are not—yet—impounded nor subject to a recission, both legal terms/processes.

The media are in the meantime reporting on the recission bill currently in Congress. We mention it here to clarify any possible confusion. There *is* a recission bill in Congress, but it is *not* education related. H.R. 4 has passed the House and is pending in the Senate, which must vote by July 18. If it passes, H.R. 4 cancels spending on foreign aid, the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), among other things.

The education funds could indeed become another recission bill. The Administration argues that it has the authority to withhold the funding while it is under review. If schools are depending on Title II professional development funding, it appears that those funds are not guaranteed going forward.

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Please note that the Trump Administration budget proposal also would eliminate this funding. The budget proposal is an active part of the appropriations process now under way. It makes some sense that all of this is related and part of the negotiating process— temporary review, possible recission of existing funds versus appropriations of future funds that Congress is taking up.

## How can you help?

We have an opportunity to make the case to the Administration while the funds are under review. Our main focus—based on the feedback we're getting from member schools—is Title II professional development. It can help to explain to the Administration the impact that loss of the Title II funds will have / is having on member school professional development plans. Bear in mind that the funds for professional development (PD) must "supplement, not supplant" the regular PD a school or teacher may undertake, and that the PD covered by Title II funds must be "secular, neutral and non-ideological." If you have a story to tell, please submit this form. We will share those impacts with the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Reminder: Your engagement in the public policy process makes a real difference in the outcome of policies that can promote Christian education. Learn how you can make a significant contribution to solid public policy and your own professional development as a school leader: Attend the annual Public Policy & Advocacy Summit this September 15–17, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This year's Summit lineup includes Os Guinness as the opening banquet speaker. For more information and to register, visit <u>www.acsi.org/summit</u>.