



## Nearly \$87M in limbo for Kentucky schools as Trump administration withholds funding

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Kentucky school districts are operating without nearly \$87 million they had expected to receive from the federal government, following a one-day notice that the [funds wouldn't be distributed on time](#) and could be in jeopardy.

The funding in question allows districts to operate programs that support [English-language learners](#), teacher professional development, before- and after-school programs and more.

Nationally, it represents about \$6.2 billion that is typically made available to states and districts on July 1 each year, but congressional staff were notified June 30 that the funding wouldn't be on time and "decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year," according to [reporting from USA Today](#).

In an email to The Courier Journal on July 1, Jennifer Ginn with the Kentucky Department of Education said that while the department has not received the funding as expected, "we haven't been notified officially by (the U.S. Department of Education) yet that those funds are not coming."

"While these funds have been appropriated by the United States Congress, the Executive Branch has authority to determine the manner in which funds are distributed," Ginn wrote. "KDE is monitoring the situation and will communicate more information when it is available."

The breakdown for what KDE expected to receive includes:

- \$7.9 million for migrant education
- \$33.6 million for supporting effective instruction
- \$5.7 million for English language acquisition
- \$20.3 million for student support and academic enrichment
- \$19.4 million for 21st Century Learning Centers

The Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the country's largest urban districts that includes Jefferson County Public Schools, has urged the Trump administration to release the undistributed funds in order to avoid "understaffed classrooms, layoffs or budget deficits where staff have already been hired for the year, and a significant disruption to learning environments across the nation."

"Withholding this vital federal funding from school districts two weeks before schools begin the new academic year is unacceptable," Council Executive Director Ray Hart said in a press release. "School districts rely on these funds to pay teachers and principals, provide school safety, support children and families with after-school and summer school programming, and offer academic enrichment to millions of students across the country."