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NSBA Running Talking Points- September/October 2025 Government Shutdown

Talking Points/Messaging

- If Congress doesn't pass a funding bill by September 30, the federal government will shut down. This could disrupt critical education services, pause civil rights investigations, and put new grant funding on hold. NSBA is closely monitoring developments and will keep local boards informed.
- The U.S. Department of Education has announced that during a shutdown it will lay off most staff and suspend civil rights complaint investigations. While Title I and IDEA funds will continue flowing temporarily, no new grants will be awarded. NSBA is advocating for uninterrupted support for students.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture says it has funding for at least two months of school meals if the federal government closes. NSBA is tracking this to ensure students don't go hungry and schools have the resources they need to serve children.
- Funding for some Head Start programs could be hit by a shutdown and school districts in areas with tax-exempt federal land would miss out on federal funding. NSBA will continue to advocate for no disruptions in ED funding.
- A shutdown means the Office of Management and Budget will take control of agency operations. Boards should expect potential delays in federal services, especially with grants and technical support. NSBA will provide timely updates and resources to help boards respond.
- NSBA continues to advocate on Capitol Hill to protect federal education investments and ensure local school boards can support students during uncertain times. We'll share real-time updates and actionable steps for boards as the situation evolves.

NSBA has issued an [advocacy alert](#) asking individuals to contact their members of Congress and urge the House to accept the Senate's proposal for the fiscal year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Please share this link with your networks and encourage them to contact Congress in support of the Senate's bill: <https://p2a.co/p825Jbf>.



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Key Actions

- If the Senate does not pass the House's funding (referred to as a "Clean Continuing Resolution" proposal by September 30, the federal government will shut down.
- At least seven (7) Democrats are needed in the Senate to advance the proposal to the President. And, Republicans are beginning to argue Democrats have the power to keep the government open by supporting the measure.
- Of note, Democrats in the House are in Washington, DC waiting for a deal, and Republicans are back in their districts. This is a clear signal Speaker Johnson wants to force Democrats to accept the House proposal.
- Currently, only one Democrat (Sen. John Fetterman) has publicly committed to support the bill. The senate is expected to take a vote tonight and Republicans are hoping the Democrats in the senate will join them and end the standoff.
- Senate Democrats are withholding their votes to push Republicans to extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits/subsidies, which expire at the end of the year; open enrollment begins November 1.
- President Trump is expected to meet with Congressional leaders today to rally support for a "Clean Continuing Resolution (CR)." A "Clean CR" simply means we fund the government at prior levels. Nothing added.
- Federal agencies have begun drafting and activating shutdown plans to manage essential operations.
- If a shutdown occurs, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will have full authority to run the government and may downsize agencies as needed.
- For perspective, this would only be a six (6) week funding proposal, and we will be back at the table again in six weeks should a deal be reached.

Impact on NSBA & Local Boards of Education

- The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) has released its [shutdown plan](#):
 - Will lay off 1,500 of its 1,700 employees.


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- Will suspend investigations of civil rights complaints and violations.
 - Will continue distributing Title I and IDEA funds to states and other funding normally available to LEAs.
 - Will not administer or award any new federal grants.
 - If the shutdown lasts longer than one week, the Department may begin rehiring staff to restart critical operations.
- The plan does not mention career and technical education grants and Title II money by name. But the plan says of programs with advance funding from fiscal 2025: “Obligations and payments from these programs may continue, depending on the length of the lapse and availability of funds.” The plan details that programs that meet the “significant damage” standard, such as disrupting local school operations, would continue “on a limited basis” if a shutdown lasts a week or more.
 - The Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports it has at least two months of funding to maintain support for school meal programs during a shutdown.
 - NSBA’s federal grant with the Environmental Protection Agency is at risk of delayed or halted funding if the government remains closed for an extended period of time.
 - Funding for some Head Start programs could be hit by a shutdown and school districts in areas with tax-exempt federal land would miss out on federal funding.
 - K-12 schools are typically insulated from a lapse in federal funding, given that most of the cash they depend on comes from their state and local governments. The federal money K-12 schools do get is typically staggered throughout the year.
 - Billions in advance funding from fiscal 2025 are expected to be made available to states on Oct. 1.
 - Fiscal 2025 advance funding includes \$10.8 billion in Title I money, which largely supports schools in high-poverty areas, \$1.68 billion Title II funding for teacher professional development, \$9.2 billion in IDEA grants to states, which support students with disabilities, and \$791 million in career and technical education money.
 - Local boards can use this [tool](#) from The Education Trust to see how their state will be impacted by the various federal policy proposals.