

EMILIA SYKES

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Secretary McMahon and Director Vought,

I am writing to request the immediate release of illegally frozen education funds intended for school districts like those in Ohio's 13th Congressional District. These dollars have been congressionally authorized and appropriated and must be released with all deliberate speed.

On June 30, 2025, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce was notified that more than \$7.5 million of federal funding was being withheld from Ohio's 13th Congressional District by the Department of Education and Office of Management and Budget. This amount does not take into account previous years appropriated Title I-C funding. Withholding this funding will be detrimental to over 117,000 students in my district. This arbitrary move by the administration is illegal and wrong.

The Administration's June 30th decision to withhold funds stated, "*Decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year.*" However, these decisions have already been made. In March, on a bipartisan basis, Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, this federal funding for public schools. Constitutionally, only Congress can determine the appropriation of such funds; no administration can block the will of Congress and the people in disbursing this funding. Anything to the contrary is unconstitutional, illegal and unfaithful to the very ideals of our nation.

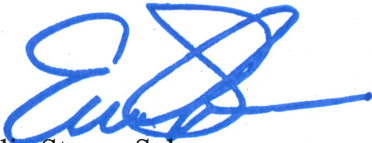
Our public schools are legally obligated to serve every student, regardless of need. The school districts in Ohio's 13th Congressional District serve over 117,000 students and must continue to do so whether they have the funding or not. Freezing federal funding does not freeze the demands of our school districts. Every school must continue to provide high quality education for all students, including students with high needs and barriers to learning, no matter what. The approximately \$7.5 million in funding my district receives for Title I, Title II, Title III, and Title IV directly supports hundreds of positions and assists all educators through training and innovation funds. These frozen funds are critical for professional development, especially for teacher recruitment and retention during a nationwide teacher shortage. The withheld dollars

support staffing for English language instruction, arts, health, and world languages for all students. Every student in my district will suffer as a result.

While it is encouraging that the Department of Education is now releasing Title IV-A funds, I implore you to go a step further and release all frozen Title funding to ensure our students are able to continue to receive the education they deserve.

Review of these programs should not prevent or delay the Administration's fulfillment of its legal obligation to the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions. I am glad to make myself available to further discuss the impact of this funding freeze on my district

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emilia Strong Sykes', with a stylized, flowing script.

Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress
13th Congressional District of Ohio