



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
U.S. Senate
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education & Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Education & Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Walberg, and Ranking Member Scott:

I write in accordance with Section 413(b)(2) of the Department of Education Organization Act (DEOA), 20 U.S.C. 3473, to notify you of Secretary Linda McMahon's (Secretary's) intention to move functions for administration of grant programs in the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) to offices within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE). This relocation will ensure better alignment of programs within OELA to their intended purposes and to programs with similar purposes, streamlining efficiency of program administration. Our administration's goal is to ensure that every child has access to an education that best meets their needs, regardless of income or zip code, and this consolidation effort is a key part of bringing that vision to fruition.

The Department is focused on improving academic achievement and student outcomes for all students. This includes support services for all students and reducing bureaucratic hurdles that hinder those services, especially for English Learner (EL) students and families. Therefore, it is critical that we streamline operations to better support ELs.

Specifically, the Title III-A formula grant program distributes funds to state educational agencies and is designed to improve the education of EL children and youth by helping them learn English and meet challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards. This program will be relocated to the Division of State Support and Accountability (SSA) which includes the other key Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) K-12 formula funding streams (e.g., Title I, Title II-A,

Title IV-B) and other grants to states. Many of the functions related to Title III-A, such as accountability, assessment, data, and allocations are currently administered out of this Division, and fully returning Title III-A to SSA will better facilitate operations, communication and support to states. This will enable states to meet the unique needs of their students and communities.

The Native American and Alaska Native Children in School Program will move to the Office of Indian Education to better align with other programs that support Native American children and youth. The National Professional Development Program will move to the Office of Effective Educator Development Programs to align with other educator development programs.

Section 413(b)(2) of DEOA authorizes the Secretary to “alter, consolidate, or discontinue,” or “reallocate any functions vested by statute” in certain offices in the Department, including OELA, conditional on providing your committees with a 90-day notice of her intention and the rationale supporting the decision. This letter officially provides such notice of her proposal, including rationale, to redelegate OELA’s programs and duties to other offices, thereby dissolving the need for a standalone OELA.

Moving these programs to other offices will better streamline and align services to ELs, reducing burden and empowering states to tailor support to the needs of their unique EL populations. This shift positions OELA programs with similar programs in other offices, improving grant administration. This furthers our mission to empower states, tribes, and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Christina Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being particularly prominent.

Mary Christina Riley
Assistant Secretary
for Legislation and Congressional Affairs

Cc: Senator Susan Collins, Appropriations, Chair
Senator Patty Murray, Appropriations, Vice Chair
Senator Moore-Capito, LHHS Subcommittee, Chair
Senator Tammy Baldwin, LHHS Subcommittee, Ranking Member
Representative Tom Cole, Appropriations, Chairman
Representative Rosa DeLauro, Appropriations, Ranking Member
Representative Robert Aderholt, LHHS Appropriations, Chairman
Representative Rosa DeLauro, LHHS Appropriations, Ranking Member