



SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY OFFICE OF
EDUCATION
DR. FARIS SABBAH • SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Santa Cruz County Board of Education • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • Tel (831) 466-5900 • www.santacruzcoe.org

Mr. Ed Acosta • Mr. Edward Estrada • Mr. Greg Larson • Ms. Sue Roth
Mr. Abel Sanchez • Mr. Bruce Van Allen • Ms. Rachel Williams

RESOLUTION #25-28

OPPOSING THE WITHHOLDING OF FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED EDUCATION FUNDS AND THE DISMANTLING OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, a continuing resolution in March 2025 that allocates approximately \$45 billion in federal funding to support TK-12 education nationwide during the 2025-26 school year; and

WHEREAS, these federal funds are essential to the education of the nation's most underserved students, including English learners, migratory students, and children attending low-income schools; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) has failed to release allocation tables and disburse these Congressionally approved funds to state and territorial education agencies, a process that is typically completed by July 1 to allow for critical planning, budgeting, and implementation of summer and early-year educational programs; and

WHEREAS, this unprecedented delay—referred to as an “impoundment” of funds—has left states and districts unable to access over \$6.8 billion in federal education funds across five core programs: Migrant Education, Supporting Effective Instruction, English Language Acquisition, Student Support and Academic Enrichment, and the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers; and

WHEREAS, the continued impoundment of these funds lacks legal basis and undermines the ability of schools to provide essential services such as summer learning, after-school programs, educator development, English language support, and student mental health and wellness initiatives; and

WHEREAS, school districts across Santa Cruz County are facing a loss of over \$10 million in federal funding due to this impoundment, threatening critical services for thousands of students and families; and

WHEREAS, if the funds are not allocated and drawn down in a timely manner, they may expire and revert to the U.S. Treasury, effectively stripping public school students of urgently needed support that Congress has already approved; and

WHEREAS, these delays disproportionately harm students in historically underserved communities, including students of color, English learners, migratory youth, low-income families, and rural populations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education was first established in 1867 and was elevated as a separate Cabinet-level department by Congress in 1980, and throughout its history has provided essential support to local schools and students with comparative data, compliance actions, and funding for local schools, students with disabilities, college aid, and other services; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court just this week allowed the current administration to proceed with the dismantling of the Department of Education in advance of pending lower court cases to the contrary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education strongly opposes the U.S. Department of Education's continued withholding of Congressionally authorized federal education funds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the immediate release of allocation tables and access to funding for all states and territories to prevent further harm to public school students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges continuation of the United States Department of Education through further Congressional or legal action;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education stands in solidarity with state and national education leaders in calling on the federal government to fulfill its constitutional and legal responsibilities to support public education without delay.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Cruz County Board of Education, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 17th day of July 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	Estrada, Larson, Roth, Sanchez, Van Allen, Williams
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	Acosta

Abel Sanchez, Board President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education

Dr. Faris M. Sabbah, Secretary
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools