



January 28, 2025

Dear Superintendents and Charter Administrators,

I am writing to you regarding the memo issued by the federal Office of Management and Budget late Monday. Many of you have reached out with questions after reading it. For those who have not yet seen it, the memo is attached.

The memo discusses a federal spending pause for programs associated with President Trump's recent executive orders. It does not specifically address education-related federal funding, which has raised questions for education in Idaho and beyond. I recognize the unease the lack of clarity has created for you.

We at the department have reached out to multiple contacts in Washington D.C. to gain further understanding of the impact the spending pause will have on education in our state. Late this morning, we received the following word from the U.S. Department of Education:

*"The funding pause directed by the January 27, 2025, OMB memorandum only applies to discretionary grants at the Department of Education. These will be reviewed by Department leadership for alignment with Trump Administration priorities. The temporary pause does not impact Title I, IDEA, or other formula grants, nor does it apply to Federal Pell Grants and Direct Loans under Title IV, HEA. The Department is working with OMB to identify other programs that are not covered by the memo."*

This clarification is helpful and appreciated but questions remain. We will continue to work to gain additional clarity and pass it along to you as we receive it.

In the meantime, I encourage districts and charters to proceed with caution when making financial commitments related to federal funds that may not be reimbursable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Critchfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Critchfield

Superintendent of Public Instruction