

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Aderholt, Chairman Walberg, and Ranking Member Scott:

We, the 104 undersigned organizations, write to express our deep concern regarding the cancellation of SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development), TQP (Teacher Quality Partnership) and Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) grants. These programs are a vital source of well-prepared educators for schools across our country. **We call on Congress to address these actions by instructing the Acting Secretary of Education to immediately reverse the cancellation of TQP, TSL, and SEED grants.**

Many of our communities are facing critical teacher shortages at a time when students are [about half a grade level behind](#) pre-pandemic achievement in reading and math. The TQP, SEED, and TSL programs help to provide high-quality, affordable, work-based pathways that expand the pool of qualified teachers, especially in teaching specialties where shortages are most acute including:

- Science
- Mathematics
- Career and technical education
- Early childhood education
- Special education
- English Language Learners

Because of a shortage of qualified teachers, schools in many communities are forced to rely on long-term substitutes, to hire unqualified individuals on emergency credentials, to increase class size, or even to reduce the number of days of instruction. Shortages are most acute in rural communities.

The SEED, TQP, and TSL programs address these challenges by ensuring schools are staffed with highly-trained professionals, improving student outcomes, and bolstering families' confidence in their school communities. Schools also face a shortage of principals, a need that can be addressed by all of these programs. In addition to directly addressing needs in the communities where they are located, these grants establish models of best practice that are replicated by educator preparation programs nationwide.

The Department has not released how many programs have been terminated, and the full impact is still being assessed, but we are aware that all SEED grants and most TQP grants have been canceled. Cancellations have affected colleges and universities — and their K-12 partners — in all parts of the country. Institutions of all types, from large research universities to small private colleges, to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and alternative pathways have been affected. These cancellations have come in the middle of the academic year, and students who are only months away from becoming fully licensed teachers have lost scholarships and paid internships which made becoming a high-quality teacher possible. Many of these students have amassed student loans, and will be left without the teaching license they prepared for and need. For K-12 schools, the cancellations disrupt a pipeline of qualified educators needed to fill key vacancies next year and eliminate vital services, such as tutoring, that teacher candidates are providing this year.

The loss of these grants impacts the effectiveness of our teaching workforce. Many of the programs were designed to attract people from fields outside of education who could bring their expertise into the classroom. This is especially important in areas such as science, math, and career and technical education. Now, those individuals may no longer have access to the support and resources they need to transition into teaching, depriving students of valuable real-world knowledge and experience.

Below are a few examples of the impacts being felt across the country because of these grant cancellations:

- In Louisiana, a reported \$23 million investment in building a pipeline of quality teachers for high-need schools was canceled. Two TQP grants, one focused on recruiting local talent to serve in rural schools and another focused on implementing an apprenticeship-based degree and teacher certification model, were terminated. A SEED grant was poised to provide more than 550 teachers to New Orleans schools by 2025, and have hundreds of aspiring teachers enter the preparation pipeline.
- In Michigan, a TQP grant focused on addressing teacher shortages and another grant on literacy instruction were canceled.
- In Ohio, a TQP grant strengthened a network of PK-12 schools and one of the state's largest educator preparation programs. A proposed follow-up TQP grant planned to extend these partnerships for high impact tutoring with some of the highest need and most vulnerable populations in the region and to develop innovative school-based mentoring models to stem the high attrition rates among new teachers.
- In Tennessee, the cancellation of SEED grants has stopped work in rural Tennessee designed to enhance instructional leadership in STEM, literacy, and computational thinking. Planned professional development and training for 35 school leaders and 125 teachers has been cancelled impacting approximately 3,200 K-12 students in some of the state's most rural districts. These districts also have been severely impacted by catastrophic flooding and other damage caused by Hurricane Helene.

Research shows that the quality of preparation matters for teacher retention and student outcomes, which in turn impact our economic competitiveness and national security. Teachers who are prepared through high-quality programs, that include pre-service student teaching as well as integrated coursework, [are less than half as likely to leave](#) the profession as those who enter the profession through pathways that lack student teaching and other key elements of teacher preparation. Another [study in Texas](#) found that 9th grade students who had teachers prepared through high-quality programs gained more than two months of additional learning compared with students whose teachers did not have this preparation.

Instead of abruptly canceling grants, we should be doubling down on investments to ensure students have access to a highly qualified educator workforce. Congress, in a bipartisan manner, authorized and funded these programs. **We once again call on Congress to instruct the Acting Secretary of Education to immediately reverse the cancellation of TQP, TSL, and SEED grants.**

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue. We look forward to your leadership in reversing the grant terminations and in finding solutions that will support our teachers and students.

Sincerely,

AACTE: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

ACTFL

Advance Illinois

AFT

Alameda County Office of Education

Alder Graduate School of Education

All4Ed

America Forward

American Association of School Personnel Administrators

American Library Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

Apprenticeships for America

Arizona Rural Schools Association

Association of CA School Administrators

Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)

Association of Educational Service Agencies

Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education (AILACTE)

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)

Aurora Institute

Autism Alliance of Michigan

BFDI Educational Services

Big Thought

Breakthrough Collaborative

California Association of School Business Officials

California Council on Teacher Education
California County Superintendents
California School Boards Association
California State University
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Administrators of Special Education
EDGE Consulting Partners
EdTrust
Education Reform Now
Educational Theatre Association
Educators for Excellence
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools
First Focus Campaign for Children
HACU
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
Hope Network's Michigan Education Corps
Idaho Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Indiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
InnovateEDU
Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Kentucky Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (KACTE)
Louisiana Resource Center for Educators (LRCE)
Massachusetts Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Michigan League for Public Policy

National Art Education Association

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Association of Elementary School Principals

National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement

National Association for Music Education

National Association for the Education of Young Children

National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

National Association of State Directors of Special Education

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)

National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ)

National Education Association

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

National Network for Arab American Communities

National Rural Education Association

NBJC

New America's PreK-12 Education Program

New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

New Leaders

North Carolina Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Northeastern Illinois University

Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Oregon Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Pennsylvania Association of Colleges & Teacher Educators
Professional Learning Coalition
Professional Learning Coalition of California
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Advocates
Rocky Mountain Association for Educator Preparation
Rural Schools Association of New York
Sacred Heart University
San Diego Unified School District
South Carolina Education Deans Alliance
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
Teaching Lab
TEACHMEducation Services, LLC
Texas Association of Colleges of Teacher Education
The Educator Academy, Inc.
UnidosUS
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University of California System
University of Nevada
University of Oregon College of Education
University of St. Thomas
Virginia Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators
Virginia Commonwealth University
Washington Association for Colleges of Teacher Education
Wisconsin Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

CC: Members of the 119th Congress