

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 23, 2025

Linda McMahon
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon,

We write to express our deep concern and strong opposition to the Department of Education's December 12, 2025 decision to issue Notices of Non-Continuation for 19 Full-Service Community School (FSCS) grants nationwide. This abrupt cancelation, taken just before the end of the year, would eliminate \$168 million from 19 of the 91 active FSCS grants. Communities and school districts were counting on this support for an additional two to three years, and the sudden loss of funding threatens programs and services that students and families rely on every day.

Of the 19 FSCS grants canceled, Connecticut is just one of two states to have three programs lose funding: Clifford Beers, Waterbury Bridge to Success (BTS), and Hartford Public Schools. Connecticut will suffer a disproportionate impact as a result of these cancelations and there is no doubt that it will leave children across our state without mental health services, access to tutoring, athletics, health care, and other critical wraparound services. Therefore, we urge the Department to immediately reconsider this decision and reverse course.

Clifford Beers in New Haven offers comprehensive services to address students' academic, social, and emotional needs. Their grant was funded through December 2028 and this cancelation eliminates \$1,750,000 in remaining grant funding for the program. Through this grant, Clifford Beers has provided after-school programming, training and support for school staff and parents, and a coordination of services that helps stabilize children and families. This decision would have immediate and far-reaching consequences for students, families, and the workforce. In their first year, 310 students were served at Fair Haven School and Family Academy of Multilingual Exploration (FAME) as a result of this funding.

The Waterbury Bridge to Success (BTS) Community Partnership was awarded a five-year FSCS grant totaling \$2,500,000, with a scheduled end date of December 31, 2028. BTS advances educational opportunity by promoting early learning, strong reading skills, and high school graduation through family engagement and collective action. Their services reach approximately 3,000 students and have been effective in reducing chronic levels of absenteeism. The Notice of Non-Continuation indicates that approximately \$1,500,000 will be canceled prior to the scheduled end of the grant period in 2028. Since being awarded the FSCS grant, BTS has

expanded school and community-based services, supports, and engagement across the five Pre-K through 8th-grade schools in the City of Waterbury.

After receiving a \$2,100,000 million federal grant in 2023 through FSCS, the Hartford School District received a Notice of Non-Continuation indicating that approximately \$1,263,000 in remaining funding would be eliminated. These funds are currently supporting programs at M.D. Fox Elementary School, Burr Middle School, and Bulkeley High School, to expand in- and out-of-school student support, career readiness programs, and crime and violence prevention and intervention. Over 20,000 students across four school districts are served through this funding.

FSCS grants have a proven success record, especially these three programs in Connecticut. We are grateful the Department is reconsidering their decision to terminate these grants and write to highlight our strong support for these programs in our state. We are calling on your Department to immediately reverse this decision.

Sincerely,



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress

CC:

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