

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 23, 2025

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

Dear Secretary McMahon,

I am writing with great concern regarding the cancellation of \$18.5 million in annual funding, and more than \$55 million over the remaining grant period, for Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) grants across Illinois.

In Illinois, FSCS grants support 16 school districts and 32 schools across Illinois, serving approximately 19,000 students annually.¹ These grant programs serve rural, suburban, and urban students alike, partnering with schools and families to ensure programs are responsive to the unique needs of each community. They provide essential family engagement, nutrition programs, academic enrichment, mental health supports, and workforce-aligned partnerships. FSCS grants are lifelines for the children and families who rely on them, ensuring that our kids remain safe and supported as they learn.

The loss of tens of millions of dollars in funding would be devastating for Illinois communities. ACT Now Illinois, a nonprofit that administers the FSCS grants says, “Students [will] immediately lose these programs,” and it will come at a time when children and families often need extra support.² If this cancellation is not reversed, students will return to school in the coming year with dramatically reduced supports, trampling on years of federal investment and destabilizing services that students, families, and educators depend on, especially in communities with the greatest need.

The Department’s cancellation letter claims these grants were terminated due to alleged violations of federal civil rights law or conflicts with the current president’s policy agenda. This decision reflects yet another instance of the Trump administration injecting politics into programs that directly affect the well-being of children. The consequences of this action will be felt immediately and broadly by students, educators, and entire communities.

Community schools strengthen neighborhoods by ensuring students have access to the resources they need to succeed. They empower parents as partners in their children’s education, align local services, and remove barriers to learning so students can succeed long after they leave the classroom. Abandoning these programs in service of political ideology is an abdication of responsibility to our nation’s children.

¹ <https://actnowillinois.org/act-now-afterschool-map-and-database/>

² <https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2025/12/18/act-now-illinois-community-schools-grant-trump>

The Department must reverse this decision and allow Full-Service Community Schools programs to continue providing critical, proven support to thousands of students and families across Illinois. Our children's futures should never be collateral damage in political battles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Raja Krishnamoorthi", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress