

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2025

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

Dear Secretary McMahon,

I write today to express my concern over the withholding of federal funding, including Title I-Part C, Title II-Part A, Title III, Title IV-Part A, and Title IV-Part B, from San Joaquin County school districts. Without access to these critical funding streams, San Joaquin County schools are at risk of losing \$18 million in federal funding harming the high-quality education, teachers, and resources our students need to thrive.

San Joaquin County school districts serve over 150,000 students annually and they rely on these federal funds to hire and retain teachers, provide specialized instruction, and run after-school programs. As you know, our nation is facing a teacher shortage and San Joaquin County is no exception - one local school district had over 100 vacancies just this past year. The withholding of \$5.5 million in Title II-Part A funding to develop and retain high-quality educators will only increase turnover rates and reduce quality instruction. In addition, it is estimated that over \$4 million in frozen Title I-Part C funding will result in at least 20 teaching positions having no funding. San Joaquin County students deserve to have a secure teaching staff focused on improving their educational outcomes without concerns over job security.

After-school programs, STEM education, and specialized instruction are critical to the well-rounded development of our students. The \$4.4 million in federal funding to improve academic outcomes withheld from San Joaquin County schools means that schools will struggle to provide computers, music education, and STEM experiments. Our schools rely on federal funding for students to explore potential career paths and our parents rely on after-school programs to provide safe learning spaces for their children while they make a living. Yet, San Joaquin County's federal after-school program funding is also frozen and must be released to ensure parents have a safe place for their children to go after the school day. Finally, San Joaquin County teaches over 29,000 English language learners per year and is at risk of losing over \$3.7 million if Title III funding is not disbursed. Each of these funding streams is critical to adequately prepare students to thrive in the career they choose.

I urge the Department of Education to disburse the \$18 million in congressionally appropriated federal education funding for Title I-Part C, Title II-Part A, Title III, Title IV-Part A, and Title IV-Part B currently being withheld from San Joaquin County schools. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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

Josh Harder
Member of Congress