

ADVOCACY WEBINAR

**U.S. Federal Education
Budget and the ELT Field:
Implications of the Shutdown**

U.S. Federal Shutdown



Congress failed to fund the government before the end of its fiscal year, 30 September



Twelve appropriation bills must be passed and signed into law

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies: primary bill for PreK-12, adult, and higher education



Federal agencies cannot spend or obligate any money without appropriations from Congress



Federal agencies must cease all non-essential functions until Congress acts.

Previous Shutdowns

Twenty funding gaps since the Modern Budget Process 1976

Pre 1980: six funding gaps but no shutdowns

Post 1981: ten funding gaps of three days or fewer, minimal impact

Four true shutdowns, affecting operations more than one business day

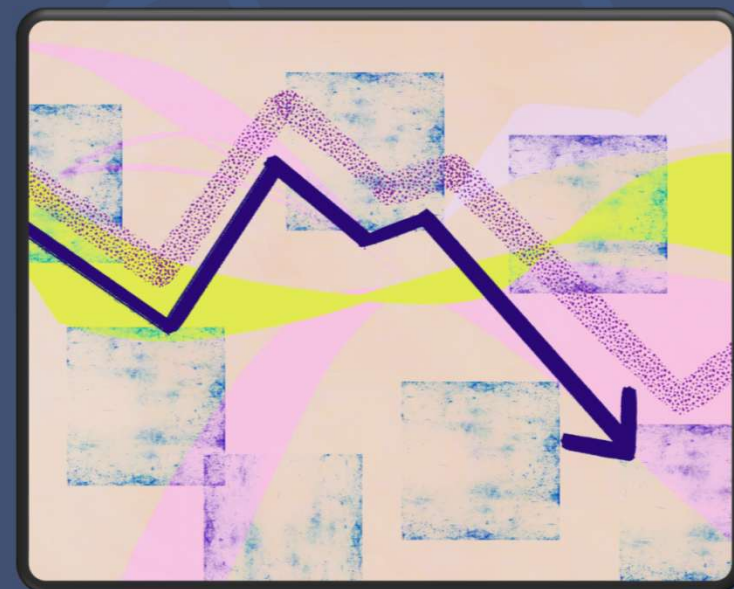
How We Got Here

- Fiscal Year 2025
 - Two Continuing Resolutions brought us to 15 March 2025
 - Full-year Continuing Resolution thereafter
 - Attempts to withhold appropriated funding
- President's Fiscal Year 2026 Skinny Budget
 - Calls for the Elimination of:
 - ESEA Title I-C Migrant Education
 - ESEA Title III-A English Language Acquisition
 - AEFLA Adult Education
 - HEA Title II Teacher Quality Partnerships
 - Calls for Reduction of:
 - US ED Office for Civil Rights
 - Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
 - Wraps ESEA Title II-A into Title I (in effect a reduction of Title I)



Status of Appropriation Bills

- None of the twelve appropriation bills moved to Resolution
- State-Foreign Operations/National Security-Dept of State
 - House full committee approval greatly reduced the cuts to ECA
- Labor-HHS-Education
 - House full committee approval in line with President's proposal
 - Senate full committee largely kept education level funded



Shutdown Impact

- Federal agencies cannot spend or obligate any money without appropriations from Congress
- Federal agencies must cease all non-essential functions until Congress acts
- Examples of essential:
 - Public Safety: Air traffic control, Law enforcement
 - Mandatory spending (not subject to annual appropriations): Social Security, Medicare, Interest on National Debt



Shutdown Impact

Department of Education Contingency Plan



- Furloughed 87% of Workforce
- OELA
- Civil Rights Investigations
- New Grants
- Student aid and Title I grant distribution continue

Shutdown Impact – ELT and MLEs

Fiscal Year – Federal Appropriations is forward-funded

Schools – public, higher ed, adult ed – using FY25 funds

Adult Ed – can draw down federal monies

Title III – can draw down federal monies

Grants on hold (except Title I)

Non-government employees and those furloughed

Looking Ahead

Continuing Resolution

Continued Shutdown

Funding Passes

Looking Ahead

US Education Staffing

State and local demands

Civil Rights



Advocacy Ahead

- Your voice matters
- Sign-up for TESOL Advocacy Alerts and Calls to Action
- Work with TESOL State Affiliates
- Advocacy begins where you are



Thank you

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