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Urgent Call to Action – Immediate Release of FY25 Title III ESSA Funds

Dear NABE Members, Educators, and Community Partners,

We write to you today with urgency and deep concern on behalf of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE). As dedicated advocates for English Learners (ELs) and immigrant students, we are calling on your leadership and voices at this critical moment.

Despite Congress appropriating **\$890 million in Fiscal Year 2025** for Title III – English Language Acquisition under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), these funds have yet to be allocated to states. Traditionally, the U.S. Department of Education shares preliminary allocations with states and Congress in May, with final awards made on July 1. This early notification is essential for effective state and district planning.

On Tuesday (July 1, 2025), school districts across the country received notification that these critical funds will not be released on time. This decision places millions of students, teachers, and entire communities at direct risk as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

NABE does not agree with this decision and unequivocally urges the U.S. Department of Education to **immediately release the FY25 Title III funds as Congress intended and appropriated.**

This delay is not merely bureaucratic—it is a **direct threat** to the educational access, achievement, and well-being of over **5.3 million English Learners** in the United States.

Why this matters:

- **Title III funds** are essential for providing language instruction programs, targeted academic support, and professional development for educators who serve ELs.
- The absence of these funds is forcing state and local agencies to terminate contracts, lay off staff, and halt critical planning and services for the next school year.
- English Learners make up more than **10% of the K–12 student population**. Any disruption in services severely undermines their academic growth, opportunity, and equitable participation.

While Secretary Linda McMahon testified on June 3, 2025, that allocations would be released, no action has been taken. Without the prompt disbursement of these funds, schools and districts will be **unprepared to serve English Learners as the new academic year begins.**

We must act immediately:

- **Contact the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget** to demand the release of FY25 Title III funds by July 1.
- **Share this issue** on your platforms and with your networks—educators, families, and local leaders must understand what is at stake.
- **[Call and write to your elected officials](#)** to hold the Department accountable and demand their public support for timely release.

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NABE stands firmly with educators, families, and students in demanding equitable access to education. We will not accept any action that threatens the needs of English Learners as an afterthought. Our students, educators, and communities deserve no less.

In solidarity and with urgency,

The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)

[Get sample letters, emails, and phone scripts along with instructions on how to contact members of Congress](#)