

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1703

October 2, 2025

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

Dear Secretary McMahon:

I am writing to request the immediate reinstatement of the \$9.7 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant that was awarded to Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) in Louisville, Kentucky, and recently revoked by the Department of Education.¹

This sledgehammer approach by the Department of Education, while JCPS is actively working in good faith to comply with the Department's Office for Civil Rights' (OCR) requests, is premature, wrong, and reckless. Pulling millions of dollars during the school year risks the funding for at least nine employees, including teachers and instructional assistants who directly support students. It also sows confusion and worry among students, parents, staff, and faculty as they return to the rest of the fall semester.

JCPS has long demonstrated a commitment to providing an environment where all students can succeed. Administrators, faculty, staff, and parents have collaborated for years to find the best practices to support students, no matter their background. As a product of JCPS and parent of three kids in JCPS schools, I know that one's zip code should not determine one's educational opportunities. Yet, the Department's hasty and unilateral decision undermines this mission and puts vulnerable students at risk.

Officials from JCPS have informed my office that they received correspondence from OCR on July 29th and again on September 16th, 2025, regarding Board Policy 09.131, the Racial Equity Analysis Protocol, discipline procedures, and JCPS' school funding formula. In response, JCPS replied on September 19th, 2025, and has already scheduled a Jefferson County Board of Education meeting on October 14th to address the remaining compliance concerns identified by OCR. The district has also committed to submitting a draft revised funding formula. These steps reflect a clear willingness to cooperate with OCR and bring local policies into compliance with this new federal guidance and interpretation of civil rights law.

¹ Courier Journal: "JCPS loses magnet school grant as Trump administration attacks racial equity policies"
<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/education/2025/10/02/trump-administration-federal-magnet-school-grant-jcps-racial-equity-policies/86435402007/>

Withholding \$9.7 million in federal support during this process is arbitrary, capricious, and a violation of federal law. JCPS is engaging in good faith, and it deserves the same from the Department of Education.

I urge you to reinstate this grant immediately. JCPS students, educators, and families should not be punished as they work diligently to provide high-quality education for all JCPS families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Morgan McGarvey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress