

Federal Programs Focus

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

"Small acts, when multiplied by many, can transform the world."



Important Dates

February 20, 2026

FY23 Title IV Use of Funds Report Deadline

March 6, 2026

FY26 CFPA Revisions Due

March 3-4, 2026

Annual Fiscal Conference

Hattiesburg, MS

Turning Final Allocations into Lasting Impact

With final federal allocations now released, districts have a clearer picture of the resources available to support students this year. While funding levels are important, what matters most is how strategically those dollars are used to accelerate achievement and close gaps.

Final allocations provide an opportunity to revisit plans, confirm priorities, and ensure that spending decisions are tightly aligned to documented needs. This is the time to ask critical questions:

Are our planned expenditures directly connected to student data?

Will these investments strengthen instruction and intervention?

Are we targeting support to the students who need it most?

Wise stewardship of federal funds requires more than meeting deadlines and maintaining documentation. It calls for thoughtful implementation, ongoing monitoring, and a willingness to adjust when strategies are not producing the desired results. As plans move from paper to practice, effectiveness should remain at the center of every decision.

February is an ideal time to review budgets, confirm timelines, and ensure that funds are positioned to make the greatest possible impact before the close of the fiscal cycle. When allocations align with strategy and are monitored for results, federal programs become powerful tools for improving outcomes, not just line items in a budget.

As we move forward, let's remain focused on the ultimate goal: ensuring that every federal dollar creates meaningful opportunities for students and measurable achievement gains.

Supporting Homeless and Foster Care Youth

Thursday, February 26

8:30 to 3:30

The Capitol Club

125 S Congress Street

Jackson, MS

The session will help participants:

Identify students experiencing homelessness or living in foster care
understand key requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act and ESSA foster care provisions

Learn practical strategies to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance, and achievement

Explore ways to foster stability, trust, and belonging for every student

Access resources and community supports to meet student and family needs

To Register:



PARTNERING for EXCELLENCE in EDUCATION

The Excellence Group partners with school districts to deliver high-impact professional development and support in topics such as:

Instructional Coaching and Teacher Training

Federal Programs Support & Compliance

Accountability & Accreditation Guidance

Assessment Design & Data-Driven Instruction

Special Education

English Learner Program Development & Instructional Strategies

Student Tutorials

Leadership Retreats

Contact us today to learn how we can customize a plan for your district!

Leigh Mobley

leigh@excellencegroup.com

