

September 2, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES directors,

Today I am sharing the following updates:

- [US House releases FY2026 appropriations bill](#)
- [US Department of Education announces end of National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#)

US House releases FY2026 appropriations bill

On Sept. 1, the House Appropriations Committee [released the FY2026 bill for review](#) by the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. You can [click here to see the video of the subcommittee hearing](#) on the mark-up.

US Department of Education announces end of National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

We received the following update from the Council of Chief State Schools Officers:

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) [sent a letter to all state chiefs](#) announcing the end to the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In the letter, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach Madi Biedermann said, “In the spirit of Returning Education to the States, USED is ending its role in the program. State leaders are best positioned to recognize excellence in local schools based on educational achievements that align with their communities’ priorities for academic accomplishment and improvement.”

Warm Regards,

Susana Córdova