

Legislative Updates

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Two Federal Grants Cancelled Which Support SPED Teachers and Deafblind Students

The federal government has ended funding for the Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP) and the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), which were intended to help recruit and retain special education teachers. The WDBTAP, which serves 170 students with vision and hearing loss, provided assistive technology tools, coaching, family support, and professional training. The SPDG, which was part of a five-year grant cycle, funded programs like the Special Educator Induction Program, which supported 280 new special educators. The DPI plans to appeal the decision to end both grant programs. The loss of funding comes at a critical time for staffing shortages in Wisconsin and the nation.