



## **Federal Policy Update**

**December 3, 2025**

The Administration plans to transfer major U.S. Department of Education (ED) programs, including 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) through new interagency agreements. While the Administration is framing this as a “streamlining” initiative to align K–12 programs with workforce systems, the implications for afterschool and summer learning programs are serious, uncertain, and potentially disruptive.

According to the Administration’s fact sheet, the new ED–DOL “Elementary and Secondary Education Partnership” will move 21st CCLC—along with 26 other formula and discretionary programs such as Title I, Title IV-A, and Full-Service Community Schools—from ED to DOL for administration.

The fact sheet asserts that:

- States will continue receiving 21st CCLC funds through DOL, with “uninterrupted” program delivery.
- ED will retain statutory oversight to comply with federal law.
- DOL will manage grant competitions, technical assistance, and integration with workforce initiatives.
- The “core functions, funding, and oversight” of 21st CCLC will remain intact.

However, several major concerns remain:

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act clearly places 21st CCLC and other Title programs under ED. Previous attempts to reorganize ED have prompted litigation.
- ED’s mission is to support a well-rounded education and child development, this is not DOL’s mission. DOL’s mission centers on workforce preparation.
- Afterschool and summer learning programs—especially those focused on enrichment, family engagement, and youth development—risk being deprioritized or reframed through a narrower workforce lens.
- Unknowns about oversight and technical assistance. ED currently supports states with: program evaluation, guidance, monitoring, and the National Technical Assistance Center.
- It is unclear whether DOL has the infrastructure, staff capacity, or experience to maintain these supports at the quality and consistency required for 21st CCLC.
- Major staff reductions at ED over the past year have already reduced institutional expertise. It is unknown whether ED program staff will transfer to DOL—or whether hiring freezes or workforce reductions will further disrupt continuity.
- DOL has not historically managed K12 grants at this scale. Any delays in distribution or communication could immediately affect afterschool and summer programs reliant on predictable funding.