



Joint Committee on Appropriations  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DERBY, CO-CHAIR  
SENATOR ERNIE OTTEN, CO-CHAIR

March 30, 2026  
Joseph Graves, Secretary  
Department of Education  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

### **Letter of Intent Regarding the Emergency Food Assistance and Commodity Supplemental Food Programs**

Dear Secretary Graves,

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2026 Legislative Session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on March 30, 2026.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

JCA requests the Department of Education (DOE) provide JCA, prior to its July 2026 meeting, a detailed report regarding grant awards received by DOE from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The report must encompass state fiscal year (SFY) 2024 to SFY2027, inclusive, and include:

1. Amounts of awarded funds in DOE's budget each SFY (for SFY2027, provide projected amounts), by program and type of funds awarded;
2. Amounts of carryover funds from the prior SFY in DOE's budget each SFY, by program and type of funds (for SFY2027, provide projected amounts), and explanations of why the funds were carried over;
3. Amounts of funds converted by DOE from administrative funds to foods funds, or vice versa, each SFY (for SFY2027, provide projected amounts), and explanations of why the funds were converted;
4. Descriptions of methodologies used by DOE to determine how funds are allocated; and
5. Any narratives provided by DOE to USDA.

JCA further requests DOE and the primary eligible recipient agency with which DOE has an agreement for the operation of TEFAP and CSFP present, at JCA's December 2026 meeting, a cooperative plan to maximize food distribution using available TEFAP and CSFP funding.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Representative Mike Derby  
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

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Senator Ernie Otten  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Russell Olson, Auditor General  
Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management