

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, February 24, 2026
TRIO DAY OF ACTION ALERT

On February 3, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 was signed into law. In addition to sustaining funding for the Federal TRIO Programs at \$1.19 billion, the legislation also instructed the Department of Education to “ensure that notices inviting applications for new awards for the Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers grant competitions are published....[and] to issue grant award notifications for all TRIO programs (both new and non-competing continuation award notices) no later than June 30, 2026.” P.L. 119-75 (2026). We know that, as a general matter, the Department of Education takes approximately six months to score and issue grant awards in a new competition. As current awards for Talent Search and EOC expire on August 31, 2026, it is absolutely critical that the Department of Education launch these grant competitions immediately!

On Tuesday, February 24, we urge the entire TRIO community – to include students, parents, alumni, and professionals across all programs – to contact their Members of Congress. Our message?

TELL THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO COMPLY WITH THE DIRECTIVE IN THE FY26
APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION AND BEGIN THE TRIO TALENT SEARCH AND EOC
COMPETITIONS IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THERE WILL BE **NO** LAPSE IN STUDENT SERVICES
THIS FALL!

Step 1: Craft your message. Your message does not have to be lengthy or fanciful. But it must be clear and direct. Here is a sample:

“My name is _____ and I am a constituent from [District/State]. I am very concerned that the Department of Education has not yet released the notices inviting applications for the FY26 TRIO Talent Search and EOC grant competitions. In the final appropriations legislation, Congress instructed the Department to launch the competitions and ensure that all TRIO grantees receive notice by June 30, 2026. If the Education Department does not act soon, there is no way they will be able to meet this deadline. More than half a million low-income, first-generation students could lose access to critical education support services this fall if Congress doesn’t move the Education Department to take swift action.”

If you have the opportunity, share why TRIO is so important to you – how it has impacted your life – personally and professionally – as well as your family and others in your community.

Step 2: Call your Members of Congress. Visit congress.gov/members/find-your-member to identify your House Representative and Senators. Ask to speak with the education aide. You may get a voicemail. You may be asked to “leave a message” with the front desk. That’s ok. Share your message!

Step 3: Send a follow-up email. Please follow up your calls with emails reinforcing your message. Send them not only to the education aide, but also to the Legislative Director and District Directors. You can find the email addresses for the staff members for all Members of Congress at bit.ly/CapitolHillContactsFebruary2026. (If you need any assistance finding the correct contact information for your legislative offices, please contact **Christian Bell** at christian.bell@coenet.org.)

Step 4: Invite five friends to do the same. Multiply the strength of your efforts and invite five friends, colleagues, and other supporters to engage in these same steps. Together, we will ensure that there is no disruption in services to our TRIO students!