

May 9, 2025

For those who are interested in the funding level for ERIC, IES (Institute of Education Services) has been providing vague and confusing information about their new funding level with language like "[with a refined scope.](#)"

While the federal government did decide to renew the contract with AEM Corporation (the company that operates ERIC) last month, [this article](#) from the Hechinger Report by Jill Barshay, is one of few sources explaining that IES is cutting funding to about 50% of its previous contract budget.

It's possible IES will be more clear about it in the future, but in the meantime, the reporter of the article from The Hechinger Report provided her source from the [Federal Procurement Data System](#) which is [a list of the contracts](#) made by the DOE with AEM Corporation. This list includes the contract they reached on April 24th, 2025 for \$2.7 million (see the last entry on the bottom of the page). Compare that contract to the one reached December 13, 2023, which was for an annual amount of \$5.2 million, slated to end in 2028.

Originally, before the cancellation and refunding, [DOGE was reportedly demanding](#) the department cut their budget in half, which, according to that latest contract, is what happened when they re-signed the agreement with AEM Corp last month.

We can now confirm that the contract with AEM Corp to continue operating ERIC was restored, but only at half the budget originally agreed upon through 2028. However, it is very frustrating because it's unclear to a lay person reading the FPDS list of contracts what exactly is being referred to. The IES is not being transparent and is using vague language which creates confusion and frustration for people whose work is impacted by this budget and the quality of ERIC. Hopefully IES will confirm the cuts and announce more details on how they will affect the database operations.

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