

# THE FACTS

  
**420,000**  
federal employees  
working without pay

**\$5.7 BILLION**  
demanded funding for  
the border wall

  
**9**  
federal departments  
impacted by the shutdown

SOURCE: VOX

# GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

## Effects of partial government shutdown hit close to home

By **Eve Gershon**

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The latest government shutdown was the longest in history—lasting a total of 35 days. It affected hundreds of thousands of Americans across the country, including right here in Oxford. Though the shutdown is over for now, President Trump stated that things might change if plans for a border wall aren't set up by Feb. 15.

Assistant Principal Nikki Logan heard the stories of many students who were worried about the shutdown and are nervous about the government's insecure future.

"Usually based on the relationships I have with the students, they have shared some information with me about specific needs that they have based upon a trickle effect of the government shutdown," Logan said. "For example, had a student mention to me that she had a fear of not having enough food stamps to get through this government shutdown because those are issued, in her opinion, from the government."

This student, Student One, was not sure what her family would have done if the shutdown continued.

"My grandmother [was] worried about how she [was] going to feed my little sister and me," Student One said.

According to NBC News, Trump initiated the partial shutdown after he was unable to get funds allocated to allow the building of a border wall to prevent illegal immigrants from coming into the U.S. from Mexico.

Student One feels as though these reasons were unjustifiable for the stress the shutdown caused her and so many others' families.

"I do not think [Trump] likes the [immigrants],

and he wants to stop them coming to the U.S. for the American dream of working and helping their families," Student One said. "A lot of people could get kicked out of the United States because of it."

Logan did what she could in her position as a principal to help Student One.

"In my role, I obviously can't control anything that's going on with the government, but I'm able to use the resources that we have in the community to help that specific child," Logan said. "In this case, I contacted Camille Bianco with the Lovepacks. I was able to get that child secured to get a Lovepack weekly as long as she needs it."

If another shutdown occurs and concerns about food stamps once again come into play, Logan talked about having a food drive specifically for OSD students.

Beyond those concerned about food stamps, Logan has come into contact with students who have families currently living in Mexico. They are worried that the building of a wall will mean that they won't be able to see their families.

"We do have some students that have families that are on the other side of the border, and we've watched them also have concerns about 'what does this look like for me?' 'Will I be able to see my family again?'" Logan said. "We just are able to counsel those kids and provide resources to them that can help their immediate needs here. You know, comfort them that whatever they need from us, just ask, and we'll try to find a solution to help them focus on their academics here and then help their families as well."

Logan is doing what she can to help the students here succeed, but she is disheartened by all that she can't do.

"I think what bothers me is watching the concern on students because of the unknown factors

that will come from this issue," Logan said.

Student Two shares similar worries about the unknown. Student Two's mother works for the government as a research scientist for the Southern Research Station of the U.S. Forest Service and has not been paid since the shutdown's start. Though she hopes to be paid soon, not a lot of definite information has been given out about when furloughed employees will receive their pay checks.

"We have savings, so it hasn't affected us that much, but my mom [was] home a lot more, and she had some work that she [had] to do, so she [was] just really annoyed a lot," Student Two said.

While Student Two's mom was able to catch up with some things at home with her lessened workload, Student Two found that the situation was not ideal.

"My mom is kind of an exempt part-time employee, so if there [was] something that [had] to be done for the shutdown, she [was] allowed to go in," Student Two said. "Because of that, she's not allowed to get another job, but I do know that one of her coworkers might quit because of it and [was] looking for another job."

Student Two cannot believe how long it took for the shutdown to end and is still worried about the government's future.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous because they refuse to compromise or even talk," Student Two said. "I just think that the two sides [Democrats and Republicans] should meet and come to a compromise and not act like children."

Though happy the shutdown is over, Student Two is concerned that the unrest on Capitol Hill is far from over.

"I'm hoping that a deal will be made in the next three weeks," Student Two said. "But I have no confidence in that."

