

April 23, 2025

Ted Mitchell
President
American Council on Education
One Dupont Circle NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

I write to seek the perspective of the American Council on Education (ACE) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

- Providing funding for K-12 schools to help ensure all students are supported, including by hiring teachers and counselors. 95% of school districts qualify for this funding, which serves approximately 26 million students each year.³
- Investigating and resolving alleged civil rights violations against students.⁴ In 2024 alone, the Department resolved nearly 400 such investigations by requiring schools to correct noncompliance with federal civil rights laws.⁵

¹ U.S. Department of Education, "Grants and Programs," <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs>; U.S. Department of Education, "Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies," <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement/improving-basic-programs-operated-by-local-educational-agencies-esea-title-i-part-a>.

² U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>; The Roosevelt Institute, "The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges," Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>.

³ Slow Boring, "What the Department of Education actually does," Ben Miller, March 17, 2025, <https://www.slowboring.com/p/what-the-department-of-education>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights Recent Resolution Search," <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/ocr-search?f%5B0%5D=resolved%3A2024>.

- Providing funding for schools to educate students with disabilities. These funds are used to pay for special education teachers, assistive technology, screening for learning disabilities, and numerous other services.⁶
- Providing funding to support afterschool programs, career and technical education programs, and other educational programs that directly serve students.⁷
- Distributing and administering federal financial aid so that low- and middle-income students can afford to go to college.⁸
- Protecting college students from predatory for-profit colleges and student loan servicers by investigating and penalizing fraud and malfeasance.⁹
- Funding research that helps teachers and schools learn how to educate students more effectively.¹⁰

Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—

⁶ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, “Allowable Costs for IDEA Entitlement Grants,” June 2023, <https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/idea/>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Education, “Grants and Programs,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs>; U.S. Department of Education, “Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement/improving-basic-programs-operated-by-local-educational-agencies-esea-title-i-part-a>.

⁸ U.S. Department of Education, “Money for College,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/money-college>.

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¹⁰ Institute of Education Sciences, “About IES,” <https://ies.ed.gov/about>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Education, “U.S. Department of Education Initiates Reduction in Force,” press release, March 11, 2025, <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-initiates-reduction-force>.

¹² U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Higher Education: Office of Federal Student Aid Is Beginning to Identify and Address Its Workforce Needs,” August 19, 2021, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-542r>; K-12 Dive, “Cardona pushes for more OCR funding given increased caseload,” Naaz Modan, May 8, 2024, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ocr-increase-funding-fy-2025-budget-request-education-department/715516/>.

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temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to ACE to better understand the impacts of these policies on students and families. Given ACE's familiarity with how funding and services provided by ED advance access to high-quality postsecondary education, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will students and families be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?
2. How will funding and services that students and families rely on be affected if ED's responsibilities are transferred to other federal departments?

¹⁵ U.S. News & World Report, “Federal Student Loan Site Down Wednesday, a Day After Layoffs Gutted Education Department,” March 12, 2025, Associated Press, <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2025-03-12/federal-student-loan-site-down-wednesday-a-day-after-layoffs-gutted-education-department>.

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¹⁷ Executive Office of the President, “Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities,” March 20, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05213/improving-educationoutcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities>.

¹⁸ New York Times, “Trump Signs Order Aimed at Eliminating Education Dept. ‘Once and for All’,” Michael C. Bender, Erica L. Green, and Alan Blinder, March 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/20/us/politics/trump-education-department.html>.


¹⁹ The Hill, “Trump says student loans moving to SBA, ‘special needs’ to HHS,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 21, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5207597-trump-student-loans-sba-special-needs-disabled-students-hhs-mcmahon-kennedy/>.

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3. To what extent have the mass firings at ED or the uncertainty surrounding the Department's future already affected students and families?
4. How have any other Trump Administration changes to ED policy, programs, or personnel affected students and families?
5. How will students and families be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Randi Weingarten
President
American Federation of Teachers
555 New Jersey Ave NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Weingarten:

I write to seek the perspective of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students, families, and educators. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

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Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—

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temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to AFT to better understand the impacts of these policies on students, families, and educators. Given AFT's familiarity with how funding and services provided by ED advance access to high-quality public education, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will students, families, and educators be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?
2. How will funding and services that students, families, and educators rely on be affected if ED's responsibilities are transferred to other federal departments?

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3. To what extent have the mass firings at ED or the uncertainty surrounding the Department's future already affected students, families, and educators?
4. How have any other Trump Administration changes to ED policy, programs, or personnel affected students, families, and educators?
5. How will students, families, and educators be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Christine Keller
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Association for Institutional Research
2241 North Monroe St PMB 1413
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Ms. Keller:

I write to seek the perspective of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on researchers and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

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- Providing funding for schools to educate students with disabilities. These funds are used to pay for special education teachers, assistive technology, screening for learning disabilities, and numerous other services.⁶
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Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—

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temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to AIR to better understand the impacts of these policies on researchers and families. Given AIR's familiarity with how data collected by ED advances important education research, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will researchers and families be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?
2. How will funding and services that researchers and families rely on be affected if ED's responsibilities are transferred to other federal departments?

¹⁵ U.S. News & World Report, “Federal Student Loan Site Down Wednesday, a Day After Layoffs Gutted Education Department,” March 12, 2025, Associated Press, <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2025-03-12/federal-student-loan-site-down-wednesday-a-day-after-layoffs-gutted-education-department>.

¹⁶ Boston.com, “As details emerge, here’s what Trump’s plan to abolish DOE could mean for Mass. schools,” Beth Treffeisen, March 7, 2025, <https://www.boston.com/news/education/2025/03/07/as-details-emerge-heres-what-trumps-plan-to-abolish-doe-could-mean-for-mass-schools/>.

¹⁷ Executive Office of the President, “Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities,” March 20, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05213/improving-educationoutcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities>.

¹⁸ New York Times, “Trump Signs Order Aimed at Eliminating Education Dept. ‘Once and for All’,” Michael C. Bender, Erica L. Green, and Alan Blinder, March 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/20/us/politics/trump-education-department.html>.

¹⁹ The Hill, “Trump says student loans moving to SBA, ‘special needs’ to HHS,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 21, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5207597-trump-student-loans-sba-special-needs-disabled-students-hhs-mcmahon-kennedy/>.

²⁰ CNN, “‘It’s a bloodbath’: Massive wave of job cuts underway at US health agencies,” Nick Valencia, Brenda Goodman, Meg Tirrell, Tami Luhby, and Sean Lyngaas, April 2, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/01/health/staff-cuts-at-federal-health-agencies-have-begun/index.html>; U.S. Small Business Administration, “Small Business Administration Announces Agency-Wide Reorganization,” March 21, 2025, <https://www.sba.gov/article/2025/03/21/small-business-administration-announces-agency-wide-reorganization>.

3. To what extent have the mass firings at ED or the uncertainty surrounding the Department's future already affected researchers and families?
4. How have any other Trump Administration changes to ED policy, programs, or personnel affected researchers and families?
5. How will researchers and families be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Warren", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Denise Stile Marshall
Chef Executive Officer
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
P.O. Box 6767
Towson, MD 21285

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I write to seek the perspective of the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

- Providing funding for K-12 schools to help ensure all students are supported, including by hiring teachers and counselors. 95% of school districts qualify for this funding, which serves approximately 26 million students each year.³
- Investigating and resolving alleged civil rights violations against students.⁴ In 2024 alone, the Department resolved nearly 400 such investigations by requiring schools to correct noncompliance with federal civil rights laws.⁵

¹ U.S. Department of Education, "Grants and Programs," <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs>; U.S. Department of Education, "Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies," <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement/improving-basic-programs-operated-by-local-educational-agencies-esea-title-i-part-a>.

² U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>; The Roosevelt Institute, "The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges," Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>.

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⁴ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights Recent Resolution Search," <https://ocras.ed.gov/ocr-search?f%5B0%5D=resolved%3A2024>.

- Providing funding for schools to educate students with disabilities. These funds are used to pay for special education teachers, assistive technology, screening for learning disabilities, and numerous other services.⁶
- Providing funding to support afterschool programs, career and technical education programs, and other educational programs that directly serve students.⁷
- Distributing and administering federal financial aid so that low- and middle-income students can afford to go to college.⁸
- Protecting college students from predatory for-profit colleges and student loan servicers by investigating and penalizing fraud and malfeasance.⁹
- Funding research that helps teachers and schools learn how to educate students more effectively.¹⁰

Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—

⁶ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, “Allowable Costs for IDEA Entitlement Grants,” June 2023, <https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/idea/>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Education, “Grants and Programs,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs>; U.S. Department of Education, “Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement/improving-basic-programs-operated-by-local-educational-agencies-esea-title-i-part-a>.

⁸ U.S. Department of Education, “Money for College,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/money-college>.

⁹ The Roosevelt Institute, “The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges,” Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>; National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, “ED Announces New Framework to Hold Loan Servicers Accountable,” Maria Carrasco, November 15, 2023, <https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/32120/ED-Announces-New-Framework-to-Hold-Loan-Servicers-Accountable>.

¹⁰ Institute of Education Sciences, “About IES,” <https://ies.ed.gov/about>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Education, “U.S. Department of Education Initiates Reduction in Force,” press release, March 11, 2025, <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-initiates-reduction-force>.

¹² U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Higher Education: Office of Federal Student Aid Is Beginning to Identify and Address Its Workforce Needs,” August 19, 2021, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-542r>; K-12 Dive, “Cardona pushes for more OCR funding given increased caseload,” Naaz Modan, May 8, 2024, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ocr-increase-funding-fy-2025-budget-request-education-department/715516/>.

¹³ The Hill, “How small can the Education Department get without Congress changing the law?,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 5, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5175754-trump-education-department-cuts-mcmahon-executive-action-legal-challenge/>.

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temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to COPAA to better understand the impacts of these policies on students and families. Given COPAA's familiarity with how funding and services provided by ED protect the rights of students with disabilities, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will students and families be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?
2. How will funding and services that students and families rely on be affected if ED's responsibilities are transferred to other federal departments?

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¹⁸ New York Times, “Trump Signs Order Aimed at Eliminating Education Dept. ‘Once and for All’,” Michael C. Bender, Erica L. Green, and Alan Blinder, March 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/20/us/politics/trump-education-department.html>.


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3. To what extent have the mass firings at ED or the uncertainty surrounding the Department's future already affected students and families?
4. How have any other Trump Administration changes to ED policy, programs, or personnel affected students and families?
5. How will students and families be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Mamie Voight
President and Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Higher Education Policy
1615 L St NW #310
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Voight:

I write to seek the perspective of the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on researchers and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

- Providing funding for K-12 schools to help ensure all students are supported, including by hiring teachers and counselors. 95% of school districts qualify for this funding, which serves approximately 26 million students each year.³
- Investigating and resolving alleged civil rights violations against students.⁴ In 2024 alone, the Department resolved nearly 400 such investigations by requiring schools to correct noncompliance with federal civil rights laws.⁵

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⁴ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights Recent Resolution Search," <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/ocr-search?f%5B0%5D=resolved%3A2024>.

- Providing funding for schools to educate students with disabilities. These funds are used to pay for special education teachers, assistive technology, screening for learning disabilities, and numerous other services.⁶
- Providing funding to support afterschool programs, career and technical education programs, and other educational programs that directly serve students.⁷
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- Funding research that helps teachers and schools learn how to educate students more effectively.¹⁰

Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—

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⁸ U.S. Department of Education, “Money for College,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/money-college>.

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Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to IHEP to better understand the impacts of these policies on researchers and families. Given IHEP's familiarity with how data collected by ED advances important education research, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

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5. How will researchers and families be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Derrick Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
4805 Mt. Hope Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I write to seek the perspective of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

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- Distributing and administering federal financial aid so that low- and middle-income students can afford to go to college.⁸
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Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—

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⁸ U.S. Department of Education, “Money for College,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/money-college>.

⁹ The Roosevelt Institute, “The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges,” Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>; National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, “ED Announces New Framework to Hold Loan Servicers Accountable,” Maria Carrasco, November 15, 2023, <https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/32120/ED-Announces-New-Framework-to-Hold-Loan-Servicers-Accountable>.

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temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to NAACP to better understand the impacts of these policies on students and families. Given NAACP's familiarity with how funding and services provided by ED protect the civil rights of students, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will students and families be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?
2. How will funding and services that students and families rely on be affected if ED's responsibilities are transferred to other federal departments?

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3. To what extent have the mass firings at ED or the uncertainty surrounding the Department's future already affected students and families?
4. How have any other Trump Administration changes to ED policy, programs, or personnel affected students and families?
5. How will students and families be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Warren", with a long, sweeping underline.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Ronn Nozoe
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Secondary School Principals
1904 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191

Dear Mr. Nozoe:

I write to seek the perspective of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students, families, and educators. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

- Providing funding for K-12 schools to help ensure all students are supported, including by hiring teachers and counselors. 95% of school districts qualify for this funding, which serves approximately 26 million students each year.³
- Investigating and resolving alleged civil rights violations against students.⁴ In 2024 alone, the Department resolved nearly 400 such investigations by requiring schools to correct noncompliance with federal civil rights laws.⁵

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Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Warren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Shakti Belway
Executive Director
National Center for Youth Law
1212 Broadway, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Belway:

I write to seek the perspective of the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

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With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to NCYL to better understand the impacts of these policies on students and families. Given NCYL's familiarity with how funding and services provided by ED protect the rights of students with disabilities, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Warren", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Becky Pringle
President
National Education Association
1201 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Pringle:

I write to seek the perspective of the National Education Association (NEA) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students, families, and educators. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

- Providing funding for K-12 schools to help ensure all students are supported, including by hiring teachers and counselors. 95% of school districts qualify for this funding, which serves approximately 26 million students each year.³
- Investigating and resolving alleged civil rights violations against students.⁴ In 2024 alone, the Department resolved nearly 400 such investigations by requiring schools to correct noncompliance with federal civil rights laws.⁵

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- Providing funding for schools to educate students with disabilities. These funds are used to pay for special education teachers, assistive technology, screening for learning disabilities, and numerous other services.⁶
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- Distributing and administering federal financial aid so that low- and middle-income students can afford to go to college.⁸
- Protecting college students from predatory for-profit colleges and student loan servicers by investigating and penalizing fraud and malfeasance.⁹
- Funding research that helps teachers and schools learn how to educate students more effectively.¹⁰

Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for

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Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to NEA to better understand the impacts of these policies on students, families, and educators. Given NEA's familiarity with how funding and services provided by ED advance access to high-quality public education, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Keri Rodrigues
President
National Parents Union
389 Pleasant St
Malden, MA 02148

Dear Ms. Rodrigues:

I write to seek the perspective of the National Parents' Union (NPU) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students, parents, and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Fatima Goss Graves
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Women's Law Center
1350 I Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Graves:

I write to seek the perspective of the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on students and families. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

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⁹ The Roosevelt Institute, “The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges,” Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>; National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, “ED Announces New Framework to Hold Loan Servicers Accountable,” Maria Carrasco, November 15, 2023, <https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/32120/ED-Announces-New-Framework-to-Hold-Loan-Servicers-Accountable>.

¹⁰ Institute of Education Sciences, “About IES,” <https://ies.ed.gov/about>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Education, “U.S. Department of Education Initiates Reduction in Force,” press release, March 11, 2025, <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-initiates-reduction-force>.

¹² U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Higher Education: Office of Federal Student Aid Is Beginning to Identify and Address Its Workforce Needs,” August 19, 2021, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-542r>; K-12 Dive, “Cardona pushes for more OCR funding given increased caseload,” Naaz Modan, May 8, 2024, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ocr-increase-funding-fy-2025-budget-request-education-department/715516/>.

¹³ The Hill, “How small can the Education Department get without Congress changing the law?,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 5, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5175754-trump-education-department-cuts-mcmahon-executive-action-legal-challenge/>.

¹⁴ K-12 Dive, “Cardona pushes for more OCR funding given increased caseload,” Naaz Modan, May 8, 2024, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ocr-increase-funding-fy-2025-budget-request-education-department/715516/>; U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General, “U.S. Department of Education’s Assessment and Recoupment of Liabilities from Closed Institutions of Higher Education,” January 28, 2025, https://oig.ed.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2025-03/FY25%2520I24GA0163%2520%25281.28.2025%2529v100_508_SECURED.pdf; Inside Higher Ed, “Colleges Confounded by Flood of Borrower-Defense Claims,” Katherine Knott, October 24, 2023, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2023/10/24/colleges-concerned-about-rise-borrower-defense-claims>.

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to NWLC to better understand the impacts of these policies on students and families. Given NWLC's familiarity with ED's role in protecting women's and girls' rights, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will students and families be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?

¹⁵ U.S. News & World Report, “Federal Student Loan Site Down Wednesday, a Day After Layoffs Gutted Education Department,” March 12, 2025, Associated Press, <https://www.usnews.com/news/business/articles/2025-03-12/federal-student-loan-site-down-wednesday-a-day-after-layoffs-gutted-education-department>.

¹⁶ Boston.com, “As details emerge, here’s what Trump’s plan to abolish DOE could mean for Mass. schools,” Beth Treffeisen, March 7, 2025, <https://www.boston.com/news/education/2025/03/07/as-details-emerge-heres-what-trumps-plan-to-abolish-doe-could-mean-for-mass-schools/>.

¹⁷ Executive Office of the President, “Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities,” March 20, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05213/improving-educationoutcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities>.

¹⁸ New York Times, “Trump Signs Order Aimed at Eliminating Education Dept. ‘Once and for All’,” Michael C. Bender, Erica L. Green, and Alan Blinder, March 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/20/us/politics/trump-education-department.html>.

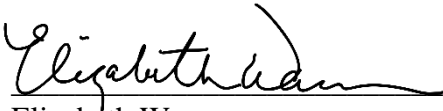
¹⁹ The Hill, “Trump says student loans moving to SBA, ‘special needs’ to HHS,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 21, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5207597-trump-student-loans-sba-special-needs-disabled-students-hhs-mcmahon-kennedy/>.

²⁰ CNN, “‘It’s a bloodbath’: Massive wave of job cuts underway at US health agencies,” Nick Valencia, Brenda Goodman, Meg Tirrell, Tami Luhby, and Sean Lyngaas, April 2, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/01/health/staff-cuts-at-federal-health-agencies-have-begun/index.html>; U.S. Small Business Administration, “Small Business Administration Announces Agency-Wide Reorganization,” March 21, 2025, <https://www.sba.gov/article/2025/03/21/small-business-administration-announces-agency-wide-reorganization>.

2. How will funding and services that students and families rely on be affected if ED's responsibilities are transferred to other federal departments?
3. To what extent have the mass firings at ED or the uncertainty surrounding the Department's future already affected students and families?
4. How have any other Trump Administration changes to ED policy, programs, or personnel affected students and families?
5. How will students and families be affected if the Trump Administration succeeds in completely abolishing ED?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

April 23, 2025

Mike Pierce
Executive Director
Student Borrower Protection Center
1025 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 717
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Pierce:

I write to seek the perspective of the Student Borrower Protection Center (SBPC) on the effects of President Trump's reckless crusade to dismantle the Department of Education (ED or the Department) on borrowers. Americans rely on ED to fund a range of critical services such as financial aid to pay for college, special education, afterschool programs, and more.¹ The Department is also responsible for protecting students from civil rights violations, fraudulent for-profit colleges, and predatory student loan servicers.² Accordingly, I request your assistance in understanding whether the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the Department will jeopardize students' access to affordable, accessible, and high-quality public education.

ED supports millions of students and families in accessing public education, including by:

- Providing funding for K-12 schools to help ensure all students are supported, including by hiring teachers and counselors. 95% of school districts qualify for this funding, which serves approximately 26 million students each year.³
- Investigating and resolving alleged civil rights violations against students.⁴ In 2024 alone, the Department resolved nearly 400 such investigations by requiring schools to correct noncompliance with federal civil rights laws.⁵

¹ U.S. Department of Education, "Grants and Programs," <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs>; U.S. Department of Education, "Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies," <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement/improving-basic-programs-operated-by-local-educational-agencies-esea-title-i-part-a>.

² U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>; The Roosevelt Institute, "The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges," Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>.

³ Slow Boring, "What the Department of Education actually does," Ben Miller, March 17, 2025, <https://www.slowboring.com/p/what-the-department-of-education>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights (OCR)," <https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ocr>.

⁵ U.S. Department of Education, "Office for Civil Rights Recent Resolution Search," <https://ocras.ed.gov/ocr-search?f%5B0%5D=resolved%3A2024>.

- Providing funding for schools to educate students with disabilities. These funds are used to pay for special education teachers, assistive technology, screening for learning disabilities, and numerous other services.⁶
- Providing funding to support afterschool programs, career and technical education programs, and other educational programs that directly serve students.⁷
- Distributing and administering federal financial aid so that low- and middle-income students can afford to go to college.⁸
- Protecting college students from predatory for-profit colleges and student loan servicers by investigating and penalizing fraud and malfeasance.⁹
- Funding research that helps teachers and schools learn how to educate students more effectively.¹⁰

Alarming, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have already begun to dismantle the Department and its core functions by firing nearly half of ED’s employees.¹¹ Even before the firings, ED was significantly understaffed,¹² had fewer employees than any other cabinet department,¹³ and was struggling to work through long backlogs of civil rights investigations, college audits, and student debt relief claims from defrauded borrowers.¹⁴ In the aftermath of the firings, students have already begun feeling the consequences. The day after the “entire team responsible for systems supporting the FAFSA form” was laid off, the Free Application for

⁶ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, “Allowable Costs for IDEA Entitlement Grants,” June 2023, <https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/idea/>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Education, “Grants and Programs,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs>; U.S. Department of Education, “Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/formula-grants/school-improvement/improving-basic-programs-operated-by-local-educational-agencies-esea-title-i-part-a>.

⁸ U.S. Department of Education, “Money for College,” <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/money-college>.

⁹ The Roosevelt Institute, “The Fall of the Department of Education and the Rise of For-Profit Colleges,” Emily DiVito, February 12, 2025, <https://rooseveltinstitute.org/blog/the-fall-of-the-department-of-education-and-the-rise-of-for-profit-colleges>; National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, “ED Announces New Framework to Hold Loan Servicers Accountable,” Maria Carrasco, November 15, 2023, <https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/32120/ED-Announces-New-Framework-to-Hold-Loan-Servicers-Accountable>.

¹⁰ Institute of Education Sciences, “About IES,” <https://ies.ed.gov/about>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Education, “U.S. Department of Education Initiates Reduction in Force,” press release, March 11, 2025, <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-initiates-reduction-force>.

¹² U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Higher Education: Office of Federal Student Aid Is Beginning to Identify and Address Its Workforce Needs,” August 19, 2021, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-542r>; K-12 Dive, “Cardona pushes for more OCR funding given increased caseload,” Naaz Modan, May 8, 2024, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ocr-increase-funding-fy-2025-budget-request-education-department/715516/>.

¹³ The Hill, “How small can the Education Department get without Congress changing the law?,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 5, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5175754-trump-education-department-cuts-mcmahon-executive-action-legal-challenge/>.

¹⁴ K-12 Dive, “Cardona pushes for more OCR funding given increased caseload,” Naaz Modan, May 8, 2024, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ocr-increase-funding-fy-2025-budget-request-education-department/715516/>; U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General, “U.S. Department of Education’s Assessment and Recoupment of Liabilities from Closed Institutions of Higher Education,” January 28, 2025, https://oig.ed.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2025-03/FY25%2520I24GA0163%2520%25281.28.2025%2529v100_508_SECURED.pdf; Inside Higher Ed, “Colleges Confounded by Flood of Borrower-Defense Claims,” Katherine Knott, October 24, 2023, <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2023/10/24/colleges-concerned-about-rise-borrower-defense-claims>.

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—which millions of high school seniors rely upon to apply for aid that enables them to attend college—temporarily went offline for hours.¹⁵ In addition, school districts are already preparing for potential funding delays or cuts caused by the dismantling of the Department, with states sounding the alarm about the impact of these funding disruptions on programs like free school lunches for low-income students.¹⁶

Notwithstanding the consequences for American families, President Trump and Secretary McMahon have only doubled down on their efforts to dismantle public education. On March 20, 2025, the President signed an executive order calling upon Secretary McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education,”¹⁷ though federal law does not allow the President to unilaterally close ED.¹⁸ The Trump Administration has also put forth plans to move several key Department responsibilities over to other agencies, including moving the administration of federal student loans to the Small Business Administration and the allocation of funds for students with disabilities to the Department of Health and Human Services,¹⁹ despite the fact that neither agency has the expertise in education policy to take on those responsibilities and both have themselves been subject to severe staffing cuts in recent months.²⁰ Combined, these actions risk major interruptions and delays in key services that students and families rely on.

With President Trump and Secretary McMahon intent on dismantling the Department, I am writing to SBPC to better understand the impacts of these policies on borrowers. Given SBPC's familiarity with ED's role in administering financial aid and protecting borrowers, I request that you answer the following questions by May 22, 2025. You are welcome to provide data collected from your members to illustrate your answers, in addition to qualitative responses.

1. How will borrowers be affected by any cuts to funding or services, or delays in the provision of funding or services, caused by the dismantling of ED?

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¹⁶ Boston.com, “As details emerge, here’s what Trump’s plan to abolish DOE could mean for Mass. schools,” Beth Treffeisen, March 7, 2025, <https://www.boston.com/news/education/2025/03/07/as-details-emerge-heres-what-trumps-plan-to-abolish-doe-could-mean-for-mass-schools/>.

¹⁷ Executive Office of the President, “Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities,” March 20, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/03/25/2025-05213/improving-educationoutcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities>.

¹⁸ New York Times, “Trump Signs Order Aimed at Eliminating Education Dept. ‘Once and for All’,” Michael C. Bender, Erica L. Green, and Alan Blinder, March 20, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/20/us/politics/trump-education-department.html>.


¹⁹ The Hill, “Trump says student loans moving to SBA, ‘special needs’ to HHS,” Lexi Lonas Cochran, March 21, 2025, <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5207597-trump-student-loans-sba-special-needs-disabled-students-hhs-mcmahon-kennedy/>.

²⁰ CNN, “‘It’s a bloodbath’: Massive wave of job cuts underway at US health agencies,” Nick Valencia, Brenda Goodman, Meg Tirrell, Tami Luhby, and Sean Lyngaas, April 2, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/01/health/staff-cuts-at-federal-health-agencies-have-begun/index.html>; U.S. Small Business Administration, “Small Business Administration Announces Agency-Wide Reorganization,” March 21, 2025, <https://www.sba.gov/article/2025/03/21/small-business-administration-announces-agency-wide-reorganization>.

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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United States Senator