

Facts in Flood:

Federal Policy Resource Hub

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Education First's [Facts in the Flood](#) series provides analyses and resources to help education organizations navigate federal education policy changes under the Trump Administration. This document curates some of the best articles and resources for understanding what actions the administration has taken and potential impacts of those actions. We will continue updating it with new analyses and resources as policies evolve.

Relevant Resources

The general resources below offer an overview of recent Executive Orders (EOs) and administrative actions issued by the Trump administration that impact education, nonprofits and federal funding. They include summaries of key EOs, their legal standing, potential challenges to the order and insights on their potential impacts on students and the field. More detailed resources are then provided for six areas we identified as the administration's education priorities in our recent [election impact analysis](#), including funding cuts, increased immigration enforcement and rollbacks of DEI initiatives. We have prioritized open-access resources, primary sources and non-partisan analysis.

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General Resources	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
Facts in the Flood: Understanding the Trump Administration's Education Policy Actions, Part I: Strategies for Responding Source: Education First Consulting	This resource is Education First's first in a planned series of analyses and resources about federal education policy under the Trump Administration. The resource outlines considerations organizations should make in strategizing how to respond to the administration's orders, including assessing "mission risk" alongside "legal risk" to minimize harm to an organization's mission resulting from overcompliance and considering trade-offs in whether organizations should change their words, actions or both in response to "DEI" rollbacks.
Tracking Trump: His actions on education Source: Hechinger Report	This resource provides a week by week tracking of the Trump administration's actions on education, including budget cuts, shifts in civil rights enforcement and restrictions on transgender and immigrant students. Many of these actions face ongoing legal challenges.
Summary and Analysis of Trump Administration Executive Actions Impacting Education Source: EducationCounsel	This resource summarizes Executive Orders (EOs) and administrative actions issued by President Trump that have significant implications for early childhood, K12 and higher education. EOs carry the force of law but cannot expand or conflict with existing statutes or regulations, making several of them subject to legal challenges. The table organizes these actions by topic, providing links to the original text, summaries, potential education impacts and notes on related actions or court cases. Recent additions are highlighted, and the resource will regularly update as the Administration issues new education-related actions.
Executive Orders Affecting Charitable Nonprofits Source: National Council of Nonprofits	This resource summarizes EOs issued by President Trump that may impact charitable nonprofits, covering topics like DEI programs, government grants, civic engagement and immigration. It provides EO summaries, potential nonprofit impacts and notes on related actions and legal challenges. Some EOs face legal disputes or delayed implementation, and the document is regularly updated with new developments.
Is That Legal? A Guide to Trump's Big Moves So Far Source: New York Times	This resource covers the Trump administration's actions across foreign and domestic policy areas. For each major action, it identifies whether the order has been temporarily blocked by a judge and whether it appears to conflict with specific statutes or the Constitution.

Federal Funding: Budget Process and Cuts	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
Introduction to Budget Reconciliation Source: Richard Kogan and David Reich, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities	The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities explains budget reconciliation, a fast-track legislative process Congress uses for high-priority fiscal legislation concerning taxes, spending and the debt limit. Reconciliation bills are not subject to filibusters in the Senate, speeding up their consideration. The process begins with a budget resolution that includes reconciliation directives for specific committees.
Trump 2.0 Federal Revenue Tool Source: Education Law Center	This resource allows users to estimate potential revenue reductions for each state if federal funding was cut, broken down by federal funding stream. Additionally, it calculates the anticipated decrease in beginner teaching roles should state education budgets be required to compensate for these federal funding shortfalls.
Title I: At a Glance Source: All4Ed	This webpage offers a concise overview of Title I, a federal program providing financial assistance to schools with high numbers or percentages of children from low-income families. It explains how Title I funds support various educational services, including academic support, early childhood education and parental involvement programs.
What is Title II? Source: Powered by Title II	This resource explains Title II, Part A, a federal program focused on enhancing teacher quality and effectiveness through professional development. It details how funds are allocated to states and local educational agencies, supporting teacher training, recruitment and retention initiatives.
Education Dept. Cancels Over \$600M in Grants for Teacher Pipeline Programs Source: Linda Jacobson, The 74	The Department of Education has canceled over \$600 million in grants for teacher pipeline programs, citing inconsistency with the administration's priorities, particularly regarding diversity and inclusion efforts. The department stated that the grants were "inconsistent with, and no longer effectuates, department priorities" and could "unlawfully discriminate."
Crucial research halted as DOGE abruptly terminates Education Department contracts Source: Kalyn Belsha, Chalkbeat	This article reports on the cancellation of 89 Institute of Education Sciences (IES) contracts totaling nearly \$881 million.
U.S. Department of Education Cancels Divisive and Wasteful Grants under the Comprehensive Centers Program Source: USED	This press release outlines the cancellation of 18 grants totaling \$226 million that were awarded under the Comprehensive Centers Program.

<p>U.S. Department of Education Cancels Additional \$350 Million in Woke Spending</p> <p>Source: USED</p>	<p>This press release outlines the cancellation of \$350 million in contracts and grants to several Regional Educational Laboratories and Equity Assistance Centers.</p>
<p>Statutory Authorizations for the Cancelled IES Contracts, and Impact of the Cancellations</p> <p>Source: Knowledge Alliance</p>	<p>This memo explains the statutory authorizations behind canceled Institute of Education Sciences (IES) contracts and attempts to catalog what contracts were canceled. The memo also includes the organization's opinion about what the impact of these cancellations may be.</p>

"DEI" Rollbacks	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
Executive Order: Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling Source: <i>The White House</i>	This EO seeks to eliminate DEI and gender-related topics in K-12 education, restrict support for LGBTQ students and promote "patriotic education." It directs federal agencies to develop an "Ending Indoctrination Strategy" to identify and cut funding for programs that support gender ideology, equity initiatives and transgender student social transitions. The order also calls for enforcement actions against educators who allegedly violate laws related to gender identity support and reestablishes the 1776 Commission to advance patriotic education.
Executive Order: Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity Source: <i>The White House</i>	This EO expands the ban on DEI programs beyond the federal government, targeting corporations, universities and nonprofits. It mandates agencies to end DEI-related policies deemed discriminatory and requires federal grant recipients to certify compliance with anti-discrimination laws. The Attorney General and Secretary of Education must issue guidance to schools, and agencies are directed to investigate large institutions for potential violations.
Dear Colleague Letter Source: <i>USED Office for Civil Rights</i>	The Department of Education's letter communicates that all schools (K12 and Higher Edu) receiving federal aid must not discriminate based on race, color or national origin. It highlights the Supreme Court's decision against racial preferences in college admissions and states that race-based considerations are illegal in all aspects of school life. The letter asserts this policy is a reaffirmation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The letter serves as a notice of the Department's commitment to enforcing nondiscrimination and advises institutions to ensure compliance; giving institutions two weeks to review programs.
Frequently Asked Questions About Racial Preferences and Stereotypes Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act Source: <i>USED Office for Civil Rights</i>	In response to questions about the "Dear Colleague" letter described above, this FAQ document attempts to clarify what programs and policies the USED's Office of Civil Rights considers legal and illegal. The department clarified that curriculum content and First Amendment rights are protected, and cultural programs open to all students, like Black History Month, are permissible. However, race-based affinity graduations, scholarships and admissions prompts are prohibited and schools cannot mask discriminatory policies with terms like "social-emotional learning" or "DEI." The administration has also launched a hotline to report discriminatory practices.
US Department of Education Issues Sweeping Guidance on Race-Conscious Practices By Academic Institutions Source: <i>Morgan Lewis (Law Firm)</i>	This resource recommends specific steps academic institutions can take amid the Dear Colleague letter. Academic institutions should define their priorities and risk tolerance to guide decisions on potentially race-conscious programs. They must then thoroughly assess current programs across all departments, including admissions and financial aid, to identify and modify or eliminate any practices seen as race-based. Finally, institutions should meticulously document all race-neutral approaches in every aspect of student and campus life, preparing for potential litigation as the Department of Education expands its enforcement of non-discrimination.

[Multistate Guidance for Schools on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Initiatives](#)

Source: Offices of the Attorney General for Illinois, Massachusetts and New York

A coalition of 15 attorneys general, led by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, issued guidance affirming the legality and importance of DEI initiatives in education. This comes in response to a Trump administration executive order and Department of Education communications targeting DEI policies. The guidance clarifies that these federal actions do not change existing legal precedents supporting DEI efforts in schools and universities. It also provides recommendations for K12 schools and higher education institutions to continue promoting diverse and inclusive environments within legal boundaries.

Restructured US Department of Education	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
U.S. Department of Education Initiates Reduction in Force Source: <i>USED</i>	In this press release, USED says that as part of its “final mission” it initiated a reduction in force (RIF) that impacts almost 50% of the Department’s workforce. Beginning March 21, impacted staff will be placed on administrative leave. At the start of Trump’s second term, USED’s workforce included 4,133 workers; after this action, the workforce will have ~2,183 workers. The release says that USED will continue to deliver on all statutory programs.
Our Department’s Final Mission Source: <i>Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, USED</i>	In this letter to department staff, Secretary McMahon outlines the agency’s “final mission” to staff. Her message emphasizes cutting bureaucracy, promoting school choice and removing DEI programs from schools. She outlines three convictions to drive the agency’s work: “1. Parents are the primary decision makers in their children’s education. 2. Taxpayer-funded education should refocus on meaningful learning in math, reading, science, and history—not divisive DEI programs and gender ideology. 3. Postsecondary education should be a path to a well-paying career aligned with workforce needs.”
At McMahon’s confirmation hearing, it was the Education Department on trial Source: <i>Cory Turner and Jonaki Mehta, NPR</i>	This resource provides an overview of Secretary McMahon’s confirmation hearing. During the hearing, McMahon criticized the current public education system as “in decline” and expressed her commitment to reducing federal oversight in favor of state and local control. She emphasized the importance of empowering educators by stating, “If confirmed as secretary, I will work with Congress to reorient the department toward helping educators, not controlling them.” McMahon also supported school choice initiatives, aligning with the administration’s agenda to promote educational freedom and parental involvement.
Frequently Asked Questions About the U.S. Department of Education Source: <i>Center for American Progress</i>	This resource is an explainer of the U.S. Department of Education’s primary roles and history. It describes how the department provides resources to schools, students and families to ensure access to high-quality education, enforces school civil rights laws and administers federal financial aid. The department also advances research to enhance teaching and learning and was established in 1979 to provide equal access to education for all.
With Trump back in office, what’s next for the US Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights? Source: <i>Rachel M. Perera, Brookings</i>	This resource is an explainer of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Traditionally, the Office protects students from discrimination. The authors editorialize that the Trump administration aims to shift the Office’s focus, potentially undermining protections for marginalized students. The argument is built on plans suggesting reducing support for efforts that make schools safer and more inclusive for students of color, LGBTQ+ students and those with disabilities. While legal and bureaucratic constraints may limit these changes, the authors advise state and local leaders to take on a greater role in safeguarding students’ civil rights.

Career Pathways	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
CTE Policy Watch Source: ACTE	The Association for Career and Technical Education’s blog provides updated information and analyses about relevant policies and their impact on career and technical education.
Committee on Education & Workforce Latest News Source: Committee on Education & Workforce	This resource provides the latest news and press releases from the House of Representatives Committee on Education & Workforce. This standing committee oversees legislation about education and workforce matters and helps shape policies about various matters, including job training, workplace safety and the federal role in public K12 education.

Immigration Enforcement and Deportations	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
Laken Riley Act Source: 119th Congress	The Laken Riley Act requires DHS to detain undocumented individuals arrested for theft. It allows states to sue the federal government over immigration enforcement failures, especially regarding detainment and border security.
Directive on Immigration Enforcement in Sensitive Areas Source: Department of Homeland Security	The Department of Homeland Security issued a directive rescinding the Biden Administration’s guidelines for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforcement actions in or near so-called “sensitive” areas—including public schools.
FAQs on Immigration & Enforcement Policy in 2025 Source: School Superintendents Association	The FAQs from the School Superintendents Association discuss federal immigration enforcement on campuses, outlining institutional obligations and how to protect campus communities. It explains the difference between public and nonpublic spaces, detailing when ICE can enter nonpublic areas without consent. The document also advises noncitizen students and employees on protecting themselves and their rights.

School Choice and "Parents' Rights"	
Resource Title and Author/Source	Brief Description
Executive Order: Expanding Educational Reform and Opportunities for Families Source: <i>The White House</i>	This EO seeks to expand school choice by directing federal agencies to prioritize "education freedom" in funding and grants. The Secretary of Education must issue guidance on using federal funds for school choice initiatives, while multiple agencies must explore ways to support alternatives like private and faith-based schools. Reports and plans are required within 90 days to outline how federal funds can increase educational options for families, including military and tribal communities.
To be Updated	We anticipate more news will follow when the required reports and plans mentioned above are issued. We will update this policy area with more details when that happens.