



## **CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER**

# **Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities**

## **Executive Order #14242**

**Date Issued:** March 20, 2025

**Topic:** Education

### **WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?**

- This order initiates the dismantling of the Department of Education (ED). The ED, established 45 years ago with a \$268 billion budget, is responsible for managing education data, overseeing financial aid programs distributing school funding, and ensuring compliance with civil rights laws in education.
- The order aims to dismantle the ED, while ensuring that existing services and benefits remain uninterrupted.
- The order aims to transfer educational authority back to the states and local governments.
- In the interim, the order threatens federal funding for schools that are not in compliance with anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies.



## HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- To enforce the order, the administration has already begun reducing the ED's workforce, with reports estimating that upwards up 1,500 people have been laid off.
- The order directs the Secretary of Education to take necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the ED, while maintaining the delivery of current services, benefits, and programs.
- The order directs the Secretary of Education to ensure that that any "program or activity" receiving federal funds from the ED is in compliance with federal law and has terminated any initiatives related to DEI and/or those that promote gender ideology.
- Of importance to note, federal departments can only be fully dismantled through acts of Congress.





## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- This order poses significant challenges for Black students and communities as the ED has historically played a role in enforcing civil rights laws and ensuring equitable access to educational resources.
- The Office for Civil Rights at the ED investigates complaints of discrimination in educational institutions. Its dissolution would leave Black students and other minoritized students vulnerable to unchecked discrimination.
- The ED manages Pell grants, which benefit over half of Black college students. The dismantling of this department could disrupt the distribution of these funds making it harder for many Black students to afford a college education. Additionally, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a critical tool for determining eligibility for financial aid, could experience delays or changes in oversight, limiting access to grants, scholarships, and loans for low-income students.
- The closure of the ED risks widening educational disparities as it currently provides resources for low-income and special education students, particularly in underfunded public schools serving Black communities. Special education programs, in particular, are essential for Black students with disabilities. Black students make up 17% of those in special education. Under this order, special education programs may face reduced funding and oversight, leading to fewer resources and weakened protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Without federal oversight, Black students with disabilities, who already face harsher disciplinary practices, may experience increased inequities and reduced access to necessary accommodations and support services.
- The ED collects data on educational outcomes via the National Center for Education Statistics, informing policies that address opportunity gaps. Without such data, efforts to improve educational outcomes for Black students would be hindered.



## HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) released a [statement](#) denouncing the order. Additionally, over a dozen CBC members have spoken out against this order individually, emphasizing the importance of the Department of Education in ensuring equitable education opportunities for Black Americans. Select statements from individual CBC Members are featured below.
  - **Rep. Terri Sewell (AL-07)**, Chair of the CBCF Board of Trustees: “It wasn’t enough for this administration to go after our seniors, our health care, and our veterans. Now, Trump and Musk want to steal from America’s most vulnerable children to fund their tax cuts for the wealthy.” [Full Statement](#)
  - **Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-03)**, Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and Workforce: “Abolishing a federal agency requires an Act of Congress. President Trump’s executive order to dismantle the Department of Education (ED) and ‘return education to the states’ will be challenged in the Courts.” [Full Statement](#)
  - **Rep. Maxine Waters (CA-43)**, Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services: “Once again, Donald Trump has issued another reckless and appalling executive order. This time, it’s abolishing the U.S. Department of Education. As any high school student knows, Trump cannot singlehandedly abolish the Department of Education. This blatantly unconstitutional executive order is just another piece of evidence that Trump has absolutely no respect for the Constitution, which he took an oath to preserve, protect, and defend when he was sworn in as president.” [Full Statement](#)