

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 14, 2025**

## **Department of Education Condemned for Ending Support for Students with Disabilities**

### ***Broad Coalition of Disability, Civil Rights, and Education Organizations Call for Reversal of Layoffs at Department of Education***

**Washington, D.C.** – A broad coalition of national, state, and local disability, civil rights, and education organizations is sounding the alarm over sweeping layoffs at the U.S. Department of Education. These cuts have gutted key offices—including the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)—threatening decades of progress in protecting students with disabilities.

These wholesale terminations place fundamental education laws in peril and place millions of children with disabilities at risk who receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. These layoffs circumvent the will of Congress and dismantle 50 years of precedent upholding rights for students with disabilities. Without personnel to oversee these laws, the Department cannot provide essential leadership, oversight, guidance, or support to states and schools—jeopardizing students' access to a free, appropriate public education and hampering the ability of states and localities to serve all students. In addition, the terminations also threaten the vocational rehabilitation system that helps youth and adults with disabilities become employed.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of IDEA, a law that has enjoyed strong bipartisan support for five decades. Rather than celebrating progress, we face a crisis: the dismantling of the very infrastructure Congress created to ensure children with disabilities could reach their full potential, potentially catapulting them back to a time of segregation and refusal to provide educational opportunities.

The undersigned organizations urge the Administration - and call on Congress to do the same - to reverse course immediately and restore staffing and transparency at the U.S. Department of Education. Strong federal leadership is not optional—it's a moral and legal obligation for our nation's children with disabilities.

#### **National Organizations:**

AACTE: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Access Ready Inc.

Accessible College LLC

ACVREP

Advocacy Without Borders  
AFT, AFL-CIO  
All4Ed  
Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools  
Allies for Independence  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
American Council of Blind Families  
American Council of the Blind  
American Council of the Blind Next Generation  
American Foundation for the Blind  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)  
American Psychological Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Angelman Syndrome Foundation  
Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)  
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists  
Association on Higher Education And Disability (AHEAD)  
Attendance Works  
Autism Science Foundation  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Speaks  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Black Down Syndrome Association  
Calculus Roundtable  
Caring Across Generations  
CEC Division on Visual Impairment and DeafBlindness  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Representation  
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Coalition on Human Needs  
COLLABORATIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Common Coalition  
CommunicationFIRST  
Complex and Chronic Conditions, The Division for Physical, Health and Multiple Disabilities of  
the Council for Exceptional Children (CCC-DPHMD)  
Council for Exceptional Children  
Council for Learning Disabilities  
Council of Administrators of Special Education  
Council of Citizens with Low Vision International  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)  
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)  
Cure SMA  
Dan Marino Foundation  
DCDT  
Deaf Equality  
Disability Belongs  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Disability Workforce LLC  
Disabled Martial Artists Alliance  
Diversability LLC  
Diverse Charter Schools Coalition  
Division for Communication, Language and D/HH  
Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL)  
Division for Early Childhood  
Division for Emotional and Behavioral Health (DEBH)  
Division for Learning Disabilities of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)  
Division for Research, Council for Exceptional Children  
Division of International Special Education and Services  
Division of Leaders and Legacy  
Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities  
Division on Career Development and Transition  
Down Syndrome Affiliates In Action  
Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta  
Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network  
Easterseals, Inc.  
EDGE Partners  
EdTrust  
Educating All Learners Alliance  
Education Law Center  
Educators for Excellence  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
First Focus on Children  
Foundation for Angelman Syndrome Therapeutics  
GLSEN  
Griffin-Hammis Associates

Healthy Schools Campaign  
Inclusive Development Partners (IDP)  
Innovations in Special Education Technology (ISET) Division of Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)  
International Council on Development and Learning  
Joint National Committee for Languages  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Low Vision Technology  
MomsRising  
MomsRising  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
NAACP  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD)  
National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC)  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Statewide Independent Living Councils (NASILC)  
National Association of the Deaf  
National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)  
National Center for Learning Disabilities  
National Charter Collaborative  
National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID)  
National Council for Languages and International Studies  
National Council on Independent Living  
National DeafBlind Coalition  
National Disability Action  
National Disability Institute  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Down Syndrome Congress  
National Down Syndrome Society  
National Education Association  
National Family Association for DeafBlind  
National Federation of the Blind  
National Health Law Program  
National Parents Union  
National Parents Union  
National PLACE  
National Rehabilitation Association  
National Rural Education Association  
National Women's Law Center  
Orientation and Mobility Specialist Association  
Parents for Public Schools

PreK-12 Programs, New America  
Prevent Blindness  
School Social Work Association of America  
SchoolHouse Connection  
SELF - Special Education Leader Fellowship  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.  
Success Beyond Sight  
TASH  
TDIforAccess  
Teach Plus  
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children  
The Advocacy Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
The Association for the Gifted- Council for Exceptional Children  
The Carroll Center for the Blind  
The Center for Learner Equity  
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation  
The Division of Evaluation and Assessment for Learning (DEAL)  
The Hussman Institute for Autism  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The National Association for Down Syndrome  
The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS)  
The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies  
The Sibling Leadership Network (SLN)  
Tourette Association of America  
TSC Alliance  
UnidosUS  
United Spinal Association  
United States International Council on Disabilities  
VisionServe Alliance  
ZERO TO THREE

**State and Local Organizations:**

ABLE New Hampshire  
Able South Carolina  
Advance Illinois  
AHRC Nassau  
AHRC NYC  
Alabama Association of School Psychologists  
Alabama Association of School Psychologists  
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program  
Alaska School Psychologists Association  
All Blind Children of Texas  
Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans  
American Council of the Blind of Indiana

American Council of the Blind of Ohio  
Arc Mid-Hudson  
Arc of Onondaga  
ARC of Rockland  
Arizona Council for Exceptional Children (AZCEC)  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)  
Arts Every Day, Inc.  
ASAH  
Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment, Inc.  
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania  
Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania (ASPP)  
Autism Kids  
Autism Society of Maryland  
Autistic Women's Alliance  
Beaver County Association for the Blind  
Black Educator Advocates Network  
Braille Revival League of Texas  
Brain Injury Association of New York State  
Bridge the Gap Advocacy  
BRIDGES - Rockland Independent Living Center, Inc.  
Bronx Developmental Center Chapter of the Arc New York  
Brookville Center for Children's Services  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Association of O&M Specialists-CAOMS  
California Association of School Psychologists  
California Council for Exceptional Children  
California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition  
Center for Accessible Living  
Center of Vision Enhancement  
Charting the Course  
Chautauqua County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. dba The Resource Center  
Choice and Control Inc.  
Choices For Community Living, Inc.  
Clinton ARC  
Club 21 Learning and Resource Center  
Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education  
Coastal Alabama Down Syndrome Society  
Collaborative for Exceptional Education  
CompassLL  
Connecticut Association of School Psychologists  
Connections Day School  
DBMAT - Deafblind Multihandicapped Association of Texas  
DC Special Education Cooperative  
DeafBlind Community of Texas  
Delaware Association of School Psychologists  
Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council  
Delaware Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)  
Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion/University of Kentucky  
Designer Genes of North Dakota  
DGCKids

Disability Law Center  
Disability Law Center of Utah  
Disability Law Center of Virginia  
Disability Rights Arizona  
Disability Rights Arkansas  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Center - New Hampshire  
Disability Rights Center of Kansas  
Disability Rights Connecticut  
Disability Rights Delaware of Community Legal Aid Society, Inc.  
Disability Rights Florida  
Disability Rights Idaho  
Disability Rights Iowa  
Disability Rights Louisiana  
Disability Rights Maine  
Disability Rights Maryland  
Disability Rights Michigan  
Disability Rights Mississippi  
Disability Rights Montana  
Disability Rights Nebraska  
Disability Rights New Jersey  
Disability Rights New Mexico  
Disability Rights New York  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
Disability Rights Ohio  
Disability Rights Oregon  
Disability Rights South Carolina  
Disability Rights Vermont  
Disability Rights Washington  
Disability Rights Wisconsin  
"Down Syndrome Advocates in Action Nebraska     "  
Down Syndrome Alabama  
Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands  
Down Syndrome Association of Maryland  
Down Syndrome Association for Families  
Down Syndrome Association of Central California  
Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida  
Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma  
Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas  
Down Syndrome Association of Delaware  
Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis  
Down Syndrome Association of Houston  
Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee  
Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota  
Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana  
Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio  
Down Syndrome Association of Orange County  
Down Syndrome Association of San Diego  
Down Syndrome Association of Southern Maryland  
Down Syndrome Association of Southern New Jersey  
Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area  
Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida  
Down Syndrome Foundation of Orange County  
Down Syndrome Foundation of Tallahassee  
Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas  
Down Syndrome Information Alliance  
Down Syndrome Network of Montgomery County, MD  
Down Syndrome Network of Onslow and Carteret Counties (DSNOCC)  
Down Syndrome Network of West Virginia  
Down Syndrome of Louisville  
Down to Defend, Michigan  
Easterseals Iowa  
EdTrust-Midwest  
ElevateDD  
Engage New Hampshire  
Esperanza Community Services  
Families for Strong Public Schools  
Families In Schools  
Family Voices NJ  
FIRSTwnc  
Georgia Association of School Psychologists  
Georgia Council of Exceptional Children  
GMU  
Golden Triangle Council of the Blind  
Greater Louisville Council of the Blind  
Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawaii Disability Rights Center  
Honesty for Ohio Education  
Idaho Council for Exceptional Children  
Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education  
Illinois Families for Public Schools  
Illinois School Psychologists Association (ISPA)  
Illinois State University  
IN-SIGHT  
Incompass Human Services, Inc.  
InControl Wisconsin  
Indiana Coalition for Public Education  
Indiana Council for Exceptional Children  
Indiana Disability Rights  
Inland Valley Down Syndrome Association  
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council  
Irby Psychological Services  
Kansas Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.  
Kent Street Coalition  
Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children  
Kentucky Council of the Blind  
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy  
Kern Down Syndrome Network  
Kids First Chicago  
Kids First Chicago  
Learn In My Shoes



Liberty ARC the Montgomery County Chapter NYSARC, Inc.  
Lifeworks, Inc.  
Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Living Resources Corp.  
Loving Speech Center  
Manatee County Council of the Blind  
Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Maryland Citizens for the Arts  
Maryland Dance Education Association  
Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition  
Maryland Education Coalition (MEC)  
Maryland School Psychologists' Association  
Maryland Theater Education Association  
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress  
Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium  
Massachusetts School Psychologists Association  
Mercer County Association of the Blind  
Michigan Council for Exceptional Children  
Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (MOBIE)  
Minnesota School Psychologist Association  
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities  
Mississippi Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition  
Missouri Council for Exceptional Children  
Montgomery County Association for the Blind  
Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Inc,  
Native American Disability Law Center  
NDSC and Upside Downs  
Nebraska School Psychologists Association  
Nevada Council of the Blind  
Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center  
New Hampshire Assoc of Special Education Administrators  
New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities  
New Jersey Association of School Psychologists  
New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children  
New York Association of School Psychologists (NYASP)  
New York State Council for Administrators of Special Education  
New York State Council For Exceptional Children  
NH General Court  
NH Universal Changing Stations Alliance  
NJ Community Schools Coalition  
NYSARC Inc., Warren, Washington and Albany Counties Chapter  
nysarc/glowarc  
Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities in Puerto Rico (PR P&A)  
Ohio School Psychologists Association  
Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council  
Oklahoma Disability Law Center  
Oregon Council for Exceptional Children  
Oregon SILC  
Our Children Our Schools New Jersey  
PACER Center  
Parent Education for Exceptional Children

Parent Information Center of Delaware  
Parent to Parent of Georgia Inc  
Parents Helping Parents Together, Inc  
Parents of Children with Down Syndrome (PODS) of Prince George's Co. MD  
Partnership for Extraordinary Minds (xMinds)  
Pennsylvania Association for the Blind  
Pennsylvania Council Of The Blind  
Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition  
People's Arc of Suffolk  
Pine Belt Down Syndrome Outreach  
Protection & Advocacy System, Inc, Wyoming  
Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association  
Rural Schools Association of New York  
S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
Save Our Schools Arizona  
Save Our Schools NJ  
SC Partnership of Disability Organizations  
Sights for Hope  
South Carolina Association of School Psychologists  
Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living  
St. Louis Arc  
Stand For Schools  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities  
Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowement (SOCM),  
Strategies for Disability Equity  
Streamwood Behavioral Health Systems Innovations Academy  
Strong Schools Maryland  
Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations  
Tennessee Council for Exceptional Children  
Texas Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (TAER)  
Texas Association of School Psychologists  
The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties  
The Arc Alliance, Pennsylvania  
The Arc Arapahoe, Douglas & Elbert Counties  
The Arc Chemung Schuyler  
The Arc Erie County, PA  
The Arc Greater Hudson Valley  
The Arc Jefferson - St. Lawrence  
The Arc Maryland  
The Arc Michigan  
The Arc Montgomery County  
The Arc New York  
The Arc of Alabama  
The Arc of Arizona  
The Arc of Aurora  
The Arc of California  
The Arc of Cass County  
The Arc of Dane County  
The Arc of Delaware  
The Arc of Delaware County (NYS)  
The Arc of East Central Iowa

The Arc of Greater Beaumont  
The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh  
The Arc of Illinois  
The Arc of Iowa  
The Arc of King County  
The Arc of Macomb County, Inc.  
The Arc of Monroe  
The Arc of NC  
The Arc of Ohio  
The Arc of Philadelphia  
The Arc of Rensselaer County  
The Arc of Snohomish County  
The Arc of South Carolina  
The Arc of Southeast Iowa  
The Arc of the Piedmont  
The Arc of Washington State  
The Arc Ontario  
The Arc Otsego  
The Arc Rockland  
The Arc Westchester  
The Austin Council of the Blind  
The Disability Law Center of Alaska  
The Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut  
The Parents' Place of MD  
The San Diego Center for the Blind  
The South Carolina Human Services Providers Association  
The Voices For The Medically Fragile of New York  
Ulster County Children's Advocacy Network  
Utah Association of School Psychologists  
Utah Council for Exceptional Children  
Utah State University Institute for Disability Research, Policy & Practice  
Venango County Association for the Blind  
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Vermont Association of School Psychologist  
Vermont Council for Exceptional Children  
VIA (Visually Impaired Advancement)  
VIPS (Vision Interventions and Parental Support)  
Virginia Academy of School Psychologists (VASP)  
Virginia Council for Exceptional Children  
Virginia Down Syndrome Association  
Vision Forward Association  
VisionCorps  
Washington Association of School Administrators  
Washington State Association of School Psychologists (WSASP)  
Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools  
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities  
Wisconsin Education Association Council  
Wisconsin Public Education Action  
Wisconsin Public Education Network  
Wisconsin School Psychologists Association  
Wyoming School Psychology Association