



Established by Congress with support from unions and President Carter in 1979, the Department of Education plays a critical role in addressing structural racism and systemic inequities in our education system, particularly for Black, brown, and API students.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HELPS FUND OVER **18,000** SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Federal funding makes up about **14%** of K-12 funding, helping to close gaps in underfunded districts.



\$33 BILLION

in Pell grants for lower-income college students

\$18 BILLION

in Title I funding to improve educational opportunities for disadvantaged students by supporting public schools in lower-income districts

\$14 BILLION

in IDEA funding for special education, early intervention, and other services for children with disabilities.

\$1.1 BILLION

in funding for work-study jobs for lower-income students.

FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING MATTERS. IT ALSO FUNDS...



Approx. 300,000 SEIU members

– school aides, food service workers, bus drivers, custodians and other K-12 education support workers, faculty, staff, and student workers at colleges and universities.



Disburses & services \$86B in federal student loans.



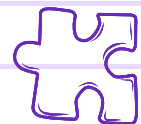
Supports campus safety for women.



Enforces laws against racial and gender discrimination in education.



Supports equal access to higher education and athletics.



Helps fund school budgets in states where many SEIU public service members work

DID YOU KNOW?



Because of its mission to treat education as a fundamental right for all, the Department of Education has been used as a political football in concerted efforts to dismantle public services and infrastructure that we all depend on.

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION?



THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION.



Federal funding makes up about **14%** of public school budgets, helping to close gaps in underfunded districts.



Dismantling and defunding the Department of Education will mean major funding losses for states, impacting students and schools nationwide.

CLOSING OR DEFUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WOULD LEAD TO...



Larger class sizes & lower wages for teachers and support staff



Schools losing **essential programs and staff**, such as behavioral and mental health support



Protections against discrimination based on race, gender, and disability at risk.



Loans could be privatized or transferred to a separate agency, **leading to higher rates and fewer forgiveness options.**



Predatory for-profit universities could more easily exploit low-income students, trapping them in debt.

BUT THE PUSH TO DISMANTLE EDUCATION ISN'T NEW!

Ronald Reagan tried and failed to shut down the Department of Education

The Trump administration reportedly preparing an executive order to dismantle the Department from within*

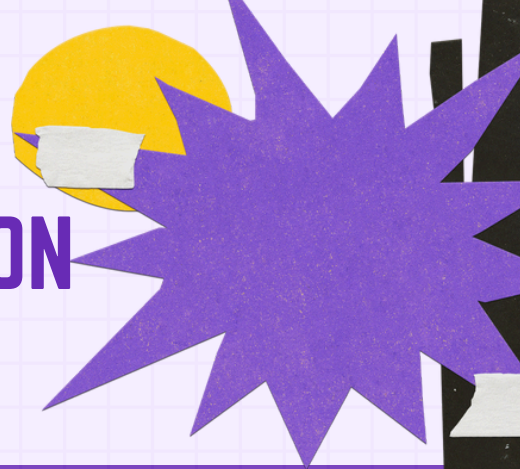


**This follows the Project 2025 playbook, whose primary goals are to dismantle and defund the Department of Education and its programs, or transferring programs to other agencies.*

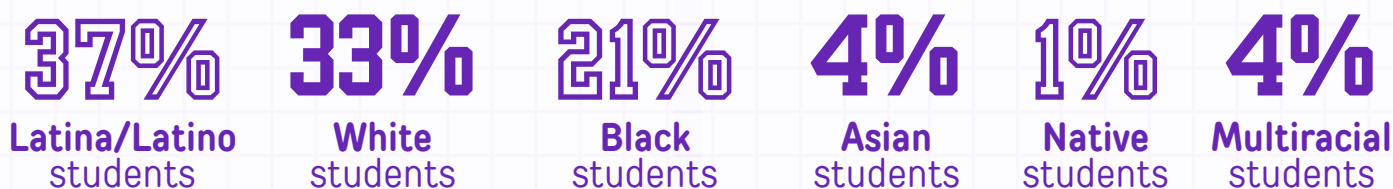


From Reagan to Project 2025, the pattern is clear: weakening federal education funding and oversight has long been a right-wing priority—threatening schools, students, and public education as a whole.

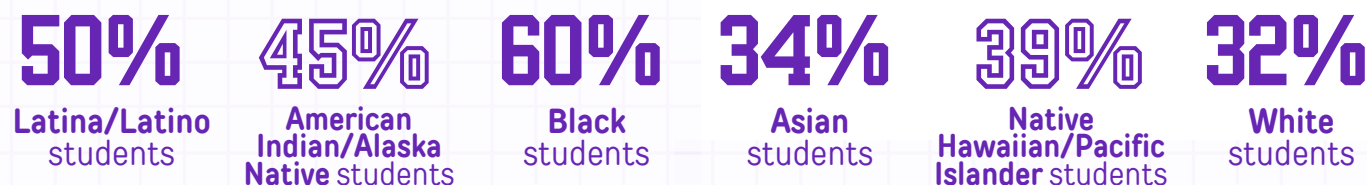
WHO IS IMPACTED IF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS DISMANTLED?



Disadvantaged students receiving Title I Funding to improve educational opportunities in low-income communities:



Low-income college students receiving Pell Grants to pay for higher education:



Dismantling or defunding the Department would hit students and families of color hardest. Black college graduates already owe \$25,000 more than their white peers—cutting or privatizing student loans would deepen this gap.

HOW MUCH FEDERAL EDUCATION AID COULD YOUR STATE LOSE?



Check out the [Education Law Center's Federal Revenue Tool](https://edlawcenter.org/research/trump-2-0-federal-revenue-tool/) to estimate the amount of federal education aid at risk in your state!

<https://edlawcenter.org/research/trump-2-0-federal-revenue-tool/>