



Department of Education

Timeline of Attacks

- **February 3, 2025:** At least 55 employees at the Education Department were placed on administrative leave, in alignment with the administration's directive to eliminate DEI offices across the government. According to the American Federation of Government Employees, the action included civil rights attorneys focused on discrimination and antisemitism.
- **February 3, 2025:** The *Washington Post* reported that approximately 20 DOGE agents were present at the Department of Education. The agents had gained access to sensitive data systems which contained personal and financial information about students in the federal student aid program.
- **February 5, 2025:** Top officials at the Education Department told employees that DOGE's deferred resignation offer could later be unilaterally cancelled by the Education Secretary, leaving employees who accepted the offer with no legal recourse.
- **February 6, 2025:** DOGE reportedly began feeding sensitive information, including personally identifiable information about grantees, from the Education Department into a Microsoft AI software program. DOGE intended to use AI to determine where to cut funding and staff from the department.
- **February 7, 2025:** Congressional Democrats were denied access to the Education Department during their attempt to meet with Acting Secretary Denise Carter.
- **February 8, 2025:** DOGE agents, including Akash Bobba and Ethan Shaotran, were given administrator email accounts for the Education Department.
- **February 10, 2025:** DOGE initiated \$881 million in cuts to Education Department grants and contracts. The cuts included 170 contracts from the Institute of Education Sciences and grants for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.
- **February 17, 2025:** DOGE canceled another \$369 million in contracts and grants after prompting from far right activist Christopher Rufo. These cuts included grants for Equity Assistance Centers and contracts with Regional Educational Laboratories.
- **March 11, 2025:** The Education Department planned to terminate roughly half of its workforce as part of DOGE's cuts, totaling over 1,300 workers. The cuts were in addition to 600 accepted deferred resignation offers.
- **March 20, 2025:** President Trump signed an executive order directing the dismantling of the Education Department.

Impacts on Capacity

By cutting contracts from the Institute of Education Sciences, including to Regional Educational Laboratories, the Department of Education lost hundreds of millions of



dollars worth of research capabilities to study ways to improve the education system. Furthermore, [Equity Assistance Centers](#) are instrumental to addressing long standing educational inequalities and implementing desegregation, “ensuring that all students have equitable access to learning opportunities, regardless of their child’s race, sex, national origin, or religion.”

The administration took particular aim at the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) where 240 employees were [terminated](#) in March. Operating as a watchdog, OCR is responsible for ensuring schools that receive federal funding uphold antidiscrimination laws. In fact, one of their many responsibilities is to ensure schools are not segregated.

Staffing at the Office of Federal Student Aid was also drastically reduced, with the FSA [losing over](#) 725 employees to resignations and terminations. These employees were responsible for oversight of student loan companies, as well as IT specialists that managed the FSA program.

Material Harms

DOGE’s incursion at the Education Department risked the security of sensitive data of millions of students in the federal student loan program. Not only did DOGE agents themselves [gain access](#) to this information, they fed sensitive data into an artificial intelligence program, leaving it vulnerable to cyberattacks.

The DOGE [cuts](#) to grants and research contracts undermined efforts to improve education across the country, as the Institute of Education Sciences [funded research](#) on student performance, analysis of educational improvement programs, and best training practices, among other efforts. While Trump and DOGE claimed the Education Department must be dismantled due to alleged poor performance, they targeted the very offices whose sole purpose was to determine how to improve education programs and practices.

Amid the administration’s efforts to purge any and all DEI programs, research and programs helping children with disabilities were also eliminated. DOGE [cancelled](#) a contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) that studied the “effectiveness of transition supports for youth with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.”

DOGE hits to the Office of Civil Rights will negatively impact women, students of color, and LGBTQIA+ students. As the single governing body that [administers](#) protections for students of protected classes under Title IX, DOGE cuts severely crippled the guardrails that ensured nondiscrimination.

Cuts to Federal Student Aid [hamstring](#) the office’s ability to competently oversee student loan disbursements, threatening Americans’ access to higher education while also leaving students more vulnerable to scams. One of the largest cuts to the pivotal



office targeted staff who ensure that for-profit colleges and universities are kept in check.

For more information on the harmful effects of dismantling the Education Department, [see here](#).

Notable Names

DOGE Agents

- **Akash Bobba**
- **Ethan Shaotran**
- **Brooks Morgan**
- **Alexandra Beynon**
- **Adam Ramada**
- **Jehn Balajadia**