



March 14, 2025

**Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities' Education Task Force Co-Chairs  
Denounces Reduction in Force at the U.S. Department of Education**

The Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Education Task Force Co-Chairs oppose the recent “reduction in force” at the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The March 11 staff reductions affected half of ED’s entire staff—effectively dismantling numerous offices. These harmful actions present significant barriers to ED fulfilling its role in supporting students, educators, and families.

ED is a critical federal agency for students with disabilities. The Department oversees the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – which serves more than 8 million children, youth and young adults – and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) – which supports nearly 1.5 million students across the U.S. Children with disabilities have the right to a free, appropriate public education because of the federal government.

The Department provides billions of dollars to states and local school districts to educate students with disabilities and to help train school leaders, teachers, and related service providers in the use of evidence-based practices that impact whether students achieve meaningful outcomes. These funds also support technical assistance and parent information centers, empowering families with critical knowledge of their rights under IDEA. Meanwhile, ED’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) safeguards the civil rights of students with disabilities by investigating patterns of discrimination, including the rampant abuse of restraint and seclusion in schools nationwide. Families deserve to know that their voices are heard, and their children’s rights are protected.

CCD is particularly concerned about the dismantling of OCR. Nearly 240 staff from the office were laid off. Furthermore, seven regional offices, including Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco, eliminated every staffer. There is already a significant backlog of disability discrimination cases at OCR, and a reduction of staff will force students and families to wait even longer for remedies.

The Education Task Force will continue to fight for the hard won civil rights of children with disabilities. Together with allies in Congress and across the U.S., we will work to protect access to IDEA and its oversight, and other laws that support educational access and opportunity in America’s schools. We urge every policymaker to stand firm in the commitment to these children and their families.



Sincerely,

Delancy Allred  
Autism Society  
Chair, Education Task Force

Laura Kaloi  
Center for Learner Equity and Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates  
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