



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Education Taskforce Condemns Office of Management Budget (OMB) Memo & U.S. Department of Education (ED) Prohibition of Anti-Racist Activities

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Education Task Force stands united in the belief that racism impacts individuals at all levels of the education system, including students and educators with disabilities, and must be actively opposed. In order to confront and fight against racism in our schools and communities, employees of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) must have the freedom to engage in anti-racism trainings.

The undersigned CCD Education Taskforce members were highly alarmed by the September 4, 2020 Office of Management Budget memorandum which directed federal agencies to “cease and desist” from engaging in training which are “divisive, un-American propaganda,”¹ including “any training on ‘critical race theory,’ ‘white privilege,’ or any other training or propaganda effort that teaches or suggests either (1) that the United States is an inherently racist or evil country or (2) that any race or ethnicity is inherently racist or evil.” In accordance with the memo, ED, as reported in the news, ordered a review of agency contracts on diversity trainings.²

This inflammatory rhetoric from the Administration relating to anti-racism trainings and the prohibition of professional development on diversity and anti-racism sets a dangerous precedent and sends an extremely troubling message. Indeed, core to the mission of ED is to “ensure equity for all.” As a federal agency, ED serves students, families, and educators from every race and ethnicity and monitors implementation of civil rights laws in our nation’s schools. ED awards grants and oversees federal program designed to promote equity and diversity in schools. For this to happen in earnest and for all students to receive an equitable education, employees at the Department must have the freedom to learn about and understand the impact of racism on millions of students, families, and educators in this nation.

Sincerely,

American Foundation for the Blind
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Brain Injury Association of America
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/M-20-34.pdf>

² <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/09/09/education-department-race-related-content-411487>

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)
Easterseals
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education
Institute for Educational Leadership
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of School Psychologists
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, & Community Empowerment
(National PLACE)
National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
RespectAbility
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children
The Advocacy Institute
The Arc of the United States

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The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The Education Task Force of CCD monitors federal legislation and regulations that address the educational needs of children and youth with disabilities and their families, including regulatory efforts under federal law such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Education Task Force advocates for high expectations for children with disabilities under these and other laws.

Education Task Force Co-Chairs:

Annie Acosta, The Arc of the United States
Amanda Lowe, National Disability Rights Network
Kim Musheno, Autism Society of America
Meghan Whittaker, National Center for Learning Disabilities
Laura Kaloi, Council of Parent Attorneys & Advocates and
Natl. Center for Special Education in Charter Schools

acosta@thearc.org
amanda.lowe@ndrn.org
kmusheno@autism-society.org
mwhittaker@ncld.org
lkaloi@stridepolicy.com

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