

What the Executive Order Privatizing K-12 Education Mean for Your Campus

Title of Executive Order	Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families (issued January 29, 2025)
What is the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the 12 Republican-led states that have already enacted universal K-12 scholarship programs to obtain Federal formula funds for private and faith-based schools as well as public charter schools after a 60-day study period by the Secretary of Education • Incentivizes additional states to underwrite private schools with federal discretionary grants and redirected block grants
How does it affect campus communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undermines college preparedness among future cohorts of students because the schools funded are not held to the same standards as public schools • Undercuts schools of education, which prepare teachers for public education in particular • Enables state elected officials to enrich their private-sector education partners' political clout
Who else is under attack?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differently-abled students will be put at a further disadvantage because their inclusion is not required by the schools that will take funds from those that are currently obligated to serve all students • Students from low-wealth families, particularly Black and brown students, have been shown to suffer most from “educational freedom” • Rural communities will lose the assurance of sound education for all and local institutions that build and serve the wider community • Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools will see federal tax funds diverted to area private schools
Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private interests that have long sought to convert the over \$800 plus billion public education “industry” into a profit source • Catholic, Christian nationalist, and other religious entrepreneurs who have long sought tax funds for their sectarian schools • Segregationists who have sought tax-funded school vouchers since the era of Massive Resistance to <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> • Libertarian donors and the economists they patronize to promote the privatization of public goods • Homeschooling parents • Authoritarian leaders • American democracy that requires an informed and educated citizenry
What can you do / How do we fight back?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your child or community suffers harm from the EO, consider becoming a plaintiff in litigation against it with the pro-bono Democracy2025 • Urge your local media to cover the story of how this policy is undermining good education for all • Reach out to influential local organizations to alert them to the harms and seek their support • Connect with state education advocates, such as Save our Schools Arizona, and national pro-public education organizations for resources, guidance, and mutual support • Join AAUP if you are a faculty member • If you or someone you know is adversely impacted by the EOs, share your story with lawyers at Democracy 2025, LDF, or Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law • Write an op-ed in your local paper, weekly journal, blog post, etc. to share how students, staff, and administrators are being targeted by this EO and share with

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Additional resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Education Wars: A Citizen's Guide and Defense Manual• The Privateers: How Billionaires Created a Culture War and Sold School Vouchers• Have You Heard?

