

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

Title of EO	<a href="#">Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families</a> (January 29, 2025)
What is the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enables the twelve 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 ed.</li> <li>• Incentivizes additional states to underwrite private schools with federal discretionary grants and redirected block grants.</li> </ul>
How does it affect campus communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undermines college preparedness among future cohorts of students because the schools funded are not held to the same standards as public schools.</li> <li>• Undercuts schools of education, which prepare teachers for public education in particular.</li> <li>• Enables state officials to enrich their private-sector education partners' political clout.</li> </ul>
Who else is under attack?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differently-abled students will be disadvantaged because their inclusion is not required by the schools that will take funds from those that are currently obligated to serve all.</li> <li>• Students from low-wealth families, particularly Black and brown students, have been shown to suffer most from "educational freedom."</li> <li>• Rural communities will lose the assurance of sound education and local institutions that build and serve the wider community.</li> <li>• Bureau of Indian Education schools will see federal tax funds diverted to private schools.</li> <li>• Defenders of free speech, the First Amendment, and academic freedom.</li> <li>• American democracy, which requires an informed and educated citizenry.</li> </ul>
Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private interests that have long sought to convert the \$800 billion public education "industry" into a profit source.</li> <li>• Catholic, Christian nationalist, and other religious entrepreneurs who have long sought tax funds for their sectarian schools.</li> <li>• Segregationists who have sought tax-funded school vouchers since the era of massive resistance to <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Libertarian donors</a> and the <a href="#">economists they patronize</a> to promote the privatization of public goods.</li> <li>• Authoritarian leaders.</li> </ul>
What can you do / How do we fight back?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child or community suffers harm from the EO, consider becoming a plaintiff in litigation against it with the pro bono <a href="#">Democracy2025</a>.</li> <li>• Urge your local media to cover the story of how this policy undermines education for all.</li> <li>• Reach out to influential local organizations to alert them to the harms and seek their support.</li> <li>• Connect with state education advocates such as <a href="#">Save our Schools Arizona</a> and national <a href="#">pro-public education organizations</a> for resources, guidance, and mutual support.</li> <li>• Join your campus union. If there is no union on your campus, <a href="#">join the AAUP</a> as an active or associate member.</li> <li>• If you or someone you know is adversely impacted by the EOs, share your story with lawyers at <a href="#">Democracy 2025</a>, <a href="#">LDF</a>, or <a href="#">Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law</a>.</li> <li>• 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 <a href="mailto:CDAF@aaup.org">CDAF@aaup.org</a>.</li> </ul>
Additional resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Education Wars: A Citizen's Guide and Defense Manual</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Privateers: How Billionaires Created a Culture War and Sold School Vouchers</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Have You Heard?</a></li> </ul>