



America Forward expresses our strong objection to the Trump-Vance Administration's abrupt action on March 11, 2025 to cut the U.S. Department of Education's staffing by nearly half. While full details have not yet emerged, we understand that the staff of many critical functions of the Department – such as the National Center for Education Statistics and numerous offices of the Office of General Counsel – have been fully or almost entirely eliminated, while capacity at other offices has been severely diminished.

As we wrote in our [letter to Congressional education leaders](#) earlier this week in advance of the administration's action, a large-scale reduction in force at the Department will not only disrupt the Department's operations, it will have an extensive negative impact on students, teachers, educational institutions and their partners nationwide – including the many non-governmental America Forward Coalition members that provide key services, ranging from high-impact tutoring to college access.

These blunt cuts at the Department seriously threaten the efficiency and effectiveness of federal funding. They pose alarming risks for students and our nation, such as a potential repeat of the massive disruption that occurred in the previous FAFSA cycle. They threaten foundational education statistics and research, including National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), that enable us to understand how students are learning and whether or not they are progressing. And they imperil the Department's ability to properly oversee the implementation of congressionally-mandated federal funding to ensure that dollars spent improve student outcomes and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

While we support efforts to improve the efficient functioning of the Department and its programs, policymakers should take a measured, evidence-based approach, not blunt-edged, drastic actions. We call on the Administration and lawmakers to take immediate action to reverse these cuts and to ensure the continued effective functioning of our nation's federal education investments. We also call on the Administration to provide the public with a transparent plan that demonstrates how programs and services will remain fully operational moving forward.