Case status Preliminary injunction granted Preliminary injunction overturned Temporary restraining order denied Temporary restraining order issued Pending Temporary restraining order overturned

National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education v. Trump DEI executive orders

Date filed 2/3/2025

Plaintiffs

Groups representing higher education officials, university professors, restaurant workers, and the city of Baltimore

Defendants

Trump; departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Labor, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, Energy, Transportation, and Justice; National Science Foundation; Office of Management and Budget

Case status

Preliminary injunction overturned

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue executive orders directing agencies to end federal DEI-related contracts and take other measures to stamp out DEI violate free speech rights and usurp Congress' authority. Anti-DEI orders have been the basis for the cancellation of Education Department contracts and grants funding research, data collection, teacher prep, and technical assistance efforts as well as an earlier federal funding freeze.

Latest court action

An appeals court on March 14 paused a Feb. 21 preliminary injunction that halted much of the executive orders' enforcement. The Trump administration can thus enforce the orders.

Court location

Maryland

More information

Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

University of California Student Association v. Carter and U.S. Department of Education

DOGE data access

Date filed 2/7/2025

Plaintiffs

University of California Student Association

Defendants

Then-Acting Secretary Denise Carter and Education Department

Case status

Temporary restraining order denied

Complaint argument

The association argues that the Education Department can use student loan borrower information only for loan processing and servicing, and that any other use violates federal privacy laws.

Latest court action

A judge denied the association's request to temporarily block DOGE's access to student loan data.

Court location

District of Columbia

More information

Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

American Federation of Teachers v. Bessent

DOGE data access

Date filed

2/10/2025

Plaintiffs

AFT and three other labor unions

Defendants

Education and Treasury departments, Office of Personnel Management, Then-Acting Ed. Sec. Denise Carter, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, OPM Acting Director Charles Ezell

Case status

Temporary restraining order issued

Complaint argument

The unions say the agencies violated federal privacy laws by granting DOGE employees access to their data systems. The Education Department maintains the National Student Loan Data System, with data from almost 43 million borrowers.

Latest court action

A judge on March 24 granted a preliminary injunction blocking DOGE's access to AFT member information in the student loan and other federal data systems.

Court location

Maryland

More information

Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

EdWeek coverage

Denver Public Schools v. Noem

Immigration enforcement

Date filed

2/12/2025

Plaintiffs

Denver Public Schools

Defendants

Sec. Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security

Case status

Temporary restraining order denied

Complaint argument

The district argues that removing schools from the "sensitive locations" list has forced schools to divert vital educational resources and caused attendance to plummet. The suit says the department did not provide "good reason" for rescinding the memo and alleges the department has violated the Freedom of Information Act by not making the department's 2025 policy publicly available.

Latest court action

A judge denied the temporary restraining order on March 7.

Court location

Colorado

More information

Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

Tirrell and Turmelle v. Edelblut

Trans athletes

Date filed

2/12/2025

Plaintiffs

Two transgender high school athletes

Defendants

Trump, Department of Justice, Pam Bondi, Department of Education, Then-Acting Ed. Sec. Denise Carter, N.H. Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut, N.H. State Board of Education members, Pemi-Baker Regional School District, Pembroke School District

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs originally challenged a New Hampshire law prohibiting transgender athletes from playing on sports teams that align with their gender identity and later expanded their lawsuit to challenge Trump's executive order threatening to pull federal funds from schools that allow transgender athletes to play on girls' and women's teams. They argue the state law and executive order deny the girls "equal educational opportunities" and

discriminate against them "solely because they are transgender, in violation of federal law and constitutional guarantees of equal protection."

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

New Hampshire

More information

Read the complaint

American Federation of Teachers v. U.S. Department of Education Dear Colleague letter

Date filed

2/25/2025

Plaintiffs

AFT; AFT-Maryland; American Sociological Association; Eugene, Ore., school district

Defendants

Education Department, Then-Acting Sec. Carter, Acting Asst. Sec. for Civil Rights
Craig Trainor

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

The teachers' union argues that the Feb. 14 Dear Colleague letter instructing schools to stop race-based programming is too vague and violates the First and Fifth amendments. On March 28, it asked for a preliminary injunction to block the Education Department from enforcing the letter while this case plays out. Plaintiffs asked the court to order that the department restore Biden-era guidance on following Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. On April 9, the AFT also asked for a preliminary injunction blocking the department's enforcement of its April 3 order to state education chiefs to certify that schools aren't using "illegal DEI practices."

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

Maryland

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

EdWeek coverage of ED's DEI certification order

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education v. McMahon Teacher-prep grant terminations

Date filed 3/3/2025

Plaintiffs

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Preparation, National Center for Teacher Residencies, and the Maryland Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Defendants

Ed. Sec. McMahon, Education Department, Trump

Case status

Preliminary injunction overturned

Complaint argument

The organizations that run teacher-prep programs argue that the Trump administration didn't follow federal rules for changing grant priorities, and that their grants should be reinstated anyway under a different court order.

Latest court action

A judge ordered the plaintiffs' grants reinstated in a March 17 order. The Trump administration appealed this order, a preliminary injunction, to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, but reinstated the plaintiffs' grants in the interim. The 4th Circuit on April 10 granted the administration's request to stay the injunction, allowing it to cancel these grants while the case proceeds. The court's order cited the Supreme Court's stay of a temporary restraining order in another case concerning teacher-training grant terminations.

Court location Maryland

More information

Read the complaint

Read the district court order granting a preliminary injunction

Read the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals order overturning the injunction

Latest EdWeek coverage

National Education Association v. U.S. Department of Education Dear Colleague letter

Date filed 3/5/2025

Plaintiffs

NEA and its New Hampshire affiliate

Defendants

Education Department, Ed. Sec. McMahon, Acting Asst. Sec. for Civil Rights Craig
Trainor

Case status Pending

Complaint argument

The teachers' union argues that the Feb. 14 Dear Colleague letter instructing schools to stop race-based programming is too vague for educators to interpret and violates laws prohibiting the federal government from interfering with curricula. The suit also asks a judge to find the Education Department's "End DEI" portal and a follow-up FAQ document to the Dear Colleague letter unlawful. The union on March 21 asked for a preliminary injunction to block enforcement of the letter while the case plays out. On April 10, the union reached an agreement with Education Department to block enforcement of the Dear Colleague letter and the department's April 3 order to state education chiefs that they sign a notice certifying that their schools do not use "illegal DEI practices" until after the April 24 deadline for submitting that certification.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

New Hampshire

More information

Read the complaint

Read the agreement temporarily blocking enforcement

EdWeek coverage

California v. U.S. Department of Education

Teacher-prep grant terminations

Date filed 3/6/2025

Plaintiffs

8 Democratic state attorneys general

Defendants

Education Department, Former Acting Ed. Sec. Denise Carter, Ed. Sec. Linda McMahon

Case status

Temporary restraining order overturned

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that canceling these grants violates the Administrative Procedure Act, circumvents Congress, and causes "immediate and irreparable harm" that will "disrupt teacher workforce pipelines, increase reliance on underqualified educators, and destabilize local school systems."

Latest court action

A judge's March 10 temporary restraining order required the Trump administration to restore the canceled grants in these eight states for 14 days. The administration appealed that order, and an appeals court panel denied that request. The district court judge then extended the temporary restraining order, but the Supreme Court on April 4 overturned it. The states have since withdrawn their request for a preliminary injunction. The case is still pending.

Court location
Massachusetts

More information Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

EdWeek coverage

Maryland v. U.S. Department of Agriculture

Probationary employee firings

Date filed 3/6/2025

Plaintiffs

20 Democratic attorneys general

Defendants

Several federal agencies including the Education Department and Sec. Linda McMahon

Case status

Preliminary injunction granted

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue the Trump administration didn't follow reduction-in-force requirements when dismissing thousands of probationary employees from federal jobs. The cuts also complicate states' efforts to support the dismissed employees, they argue.

Latest court action

A judge issued a temporary restraining order March 13 ordering the agencies to offer to reinstate fired probationary employees. An Education Department official wrote that the department had reinstated 65 probationary employees and placed them on administrative leave. On April 1, the judge issued a preliminary injunction that will be in effect as the case plays out ordering the agencies to reinstate probationary employees in the states participating in the lawsuit.

Court location

Maryland

More information

Read the complaint

Read agency officials' update on employee reinstatement

Read the preliminary injunction

New York v. McMahon

Education Department layoffs

Date filed 3/13/2025

Plaintiffs

21 Democratic state attorneys general

Defendants

Sec. Linda McMahon, Education Department, Trump

Case status Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue the mass layoffs will make it impossible for the agency to carry out its congressionally mandated responsibilities and that they violate the Administrative Procedure Act.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

Massachusetts

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

Carter v. U.S. Department of Education

Education Department layoffs

Date filed

3/14/2025

Plaintiffs

Two parents and Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

Defendants

Education Department, Sec. Linda McMahon, Acting Asst. Sec. for Civil Rights Craig
Trainor

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Parents argue that Education Department layoffs will impede the office for civil rights' ability to conduct anti-discrimination investigations, disproportionately affecting students of color and LGBTQ+ students. Meanwhile, the office has opened a small number of cases that align with the president's executive orders seeking to prohibit race-based programming in schools and bar transgender athletes from sports teams, which the parents argue will further harm marginalized students.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

District of Columbia

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

American Federation of Teachers v. U.S. Department of Education Student loan repayment

Date filed

3/18/2025

Plaintiffs

AFT

Defendants

Education Department, Sec. Linda McMahon

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

The union argues that the Trump administration's move to cut off access to incomedriven student loan repayment plans is illegal. The administration on March 26 said it had restored income-driven repayment.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

District of Columbia

More information

Read the complaint

Morgan v. McMahon

Student loan repayment

Date filed

3/19/2025

Plaintiffs

Ashley Morgan, a lawyer in Austin, Texas

Defendants

Ed. Sec. Linda McMahon

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiff argues that the Trump administration's decision to suspend access to incomedriven student loan repayment violates the department's statutory obligations to provide income-driven repayment options. Morgan says her monthly payment more than quadrupled. The administration on March 26 said it had restored income-driven repayment.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

Texas

More information

Read the complaint

Somerville Public Schools v. Trump

Education Department executive order

Date filed

3/24/2025

Plaintiffs

AFT, a local AFT chapter, two school districts, other unions

Defendants

Trump, Ed. Sec. Linda McMahon, U.S. Department of Education

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that the executive order calling for the Education Department's closure will harm educators, parents, and students, and that it unlawfully oversteps Congress' authority.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

Massachusetts

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

NAACP v. USA

Education Department executive order

Date filed

3/24/2025

Plaintiffs

NAACP, several NAACP branches, NEA, parents

Defendants

Ed. Sec. Linda McMahon, U.S. Department of Education, the United States

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that the executive order calling for the Education Department's closure will harm educators, parents, and students, and that it unlawfully oversteps Congress' authority.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

Maryland

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

American Association of University Professors v. U.S. Department of Justice

Columbia University funding cuts

Date filed

3/25/2025

Plaintiffs

AAUP, AFT

Defendants

Ed. Sec. Linda McMahon, Education Department, A.G. Pam Bondi, Justice Department, Health and Human Services Department, HHS Sec. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and others

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that the Trump administration's cancellation of roughly \$400 million in federal grants to Columbia University over complaints of antisemitism is unlawful and is forcing the university to surrender academic independence.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

New York

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

Association for Education Finance and Policy v. McMahon

Education research cuts

Date filed

4/4/2025

Plaintiffs

Two research organizations: Association for Education Finance and Policy, Institute for Higher Education Policy

Defendants

Ed. Sec. Linda McMahon, U.S. Department of Education

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that the termination of dozens of research and data collection contracts and major staff cuts at the Institute of Education Sciences exceeded the executive branch's authority and mean the agency can no longer carry out its statutorily required functions. They're asking a judge to restore canceled contracts, reverse IES layoffs, and reverse the termination of data licenses that allowed researchers to use restricted IES data.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

District of Columbia

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

Maine v. U.S. Department of Agriculture

Maine funding freeze

Date filed

4/7/2025

Plaintiffs

Maine's attorney general

Defendants

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sec. Brooke Rollins

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

The state argues that USDA illegally froze federal funding Maine uses to run its school meal program because she didn't follow "requisite procedures." The funding freeze followed an April 2 letter from Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins telling Maine Gov. Janet Mills that she was "freezing Maine's federal funds for certain administrative and technological functions in schools" over the state's policy to allow transgender athletes to compete on girls' teams.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

Maine

More information

Read the complaint

Related EdWeek coverage

Southern Education Foundation v. U.S. Department of Education

Equity Assistance Center terminations

Date filed

4/9/2025

Plaintiffs

Southern Education Foundation, a nonprofit that works with school districts

Defendants

Education Department, McMahon, Trump

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

The foundation is challenging the termination of the grant funding one of four Equity Assistance centers that provide technical assistance to districts on desegregation under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act. The foundation won the grant in 2022 to operate Equity Assistance Center-South. It argues the grant termination didn't follow proper legal procedures, that the department provided unconstitutionally vague reasoning, and that the termination violates Title IV of the Civil Rights Act.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

District of Columbia

More information

Read the complaint

New York v. U.S. Department of Education

ESSER extension cancellations

Date filed

4/10/2025

Plaintiffs

16 states and the District of Columbia

Defendants

Education Department and McMahon

Case status

Pending

Complaint argument

The states argue that McMahon's abrupt March 28 announcement revoking previously granted extensions for spending COVID relief aid "triggered chaos" and has created a "massive unexpected funding gap." The cancellations didn't follow legally required procedures for changing grant requirements mid-cycle.

Latest court action

No order issued

Court location

New York

More information

Read the complaint

EdWeek coverage

National Council of Nonprofits v. Office of Management and Budget

Funding freeze

Date filed

1/28/2025

Plaintiffs

National Council of Nonprofits, American Public Health Association, Main Street Alliance, Sage

Defendants

Office of Management and Budget, then-Acting Director Matthew Vaeth

Case status

Preliminary injunction granted

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that OMB didn't have a legal basis for ordering a freeze on most federal financial assistance.

Latest court action

A judge on Feb. 25 blocked OMB from implementing the funding freeze or reinstating it under a different name.

Court location

District of Columbia

More information

Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

EdWeek coverage

New York v. Trump

Funding freeze

Date filed

1/28/2025

Plaintiffs

23 Democratic attorneys general

Defendants

Trump and several federal agencies

Case status

Preliminary injunction granted

Complaint argument

Plaintiffs argue that the Trump administration has no authority to authorize a funding freeze.

Latest court action

A judge on March 6 granted a preliminary injunction blocking implementation of the freeze. "Here, the Executive put itself above Congress," wrote Judge John McConnell

Jr.

Court location

Rhode Island

More information

Read the complaint

Read the latest court action

EdWeek coverage