

**For Immediate Release**

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## **UCEA Statement on the Department of Education Cuts**

*East Lansing, MI*– The University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) ***unequivocally condemns*** the Trump Administration’s efforts to undermine the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and its essential work. As a consortium of university-based, preK-12 leadership preparation programs, UCEA recognizes the historic role of ED as a leader in supporting educational organizations to advance excellence and equity in each school and for each and every child. These devastating cuts to personnel and programs derail the enormous impact that ED has on the U.S. education landscape every day and set our education system back decades.

***ED plays many vital, statute-protected roles*** in school communities and postsecondary education, including:

- Supporting access to well-resourced schools for all students and educators,
- Protecting civil rights for each student,
- Funding antipoverty programs like Title I, and
- Making higher education accessible through student loan administration.

In addition, ED supports high-quality preparation and professional learning for educators and promotes rigorous educator standards that are key to student success. It administers billions of dollars in federal student aid each year, which ensures opportunity and success for millions of college students. The oversight responsibilities of ED are essential to ensuring the future of preK-20 public education across the country.

The dismantling of the offices and centers that maintain educational databases and educational research is tantamount to ED abdicating its oversight responsibilities that safeguard pathways for excellence, achievement, and equal opportunity in education.

“The evisceration of the department, its infrastructure, and the wholesale firing of the professionals who do the work of ED undermines school communities everywhere and curtails access to higher education for a generation of young adults and *their* children,” says UCEA Executive Director Mónica Byrne-Jiménez. “We knew that Secretary McMahon was tasked to diminish the role of the department, but to squander ED’s power without a full understanding of the breadth of the impact on children is unconscionable.”

We strenuously call for the restoration of ED to its full strength. Until then, UCEA will continue to work with educators, leaders, researchers, and professional associations to mitigate the effects of the recent attacks on the U.S. Department of Education, public schools, and higher education.

**About UCEA:** *UCEA is a consortium of university-based, preK-12 leadership preparation programs committed to supporting educational organizations in advancing equity and excellence. As a community of researchers, faculty, and practitioners, we are dedicated to the improvement of preK-12 educational leadership, policy, and organizations, including conducting and disseminating research that benefits schools, communities, and society.*