

Mar. 13, 2025

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors.

I have two updates today:

- [US Department of Education Reduction in Force](#)
- [Colorado Joins Department of Education Lawsuit](#)

US Department of Education RIF

We are following recent news about the US Department of Education's (ED) reduction in force closely. While we have not yet received specific information from ED about which offices are affected, I can share the [following excerpts from their March 11 press release](#):

The Department of Education will continue to deliver on all statutory programs that fall under the agency's purview, including formula funding, student loans, Pell Grants, funding for special needs students, and competitive grantmaking.

All divisions within the Department are impacted by the reduction, with some divisions requiring significant reorganization to better serve students, parents, educators, and taxpayers.

We have been told that an FAQ will be released in the coming days. We are regularly reviewing the executive orders, Dear Colleague Letters, and changes to staffing for the federal department of education and any implications that result. Unfortunately, we do not always get timely information.

Colorado Attorney General Joins Lawsuit

Additionally, the Attorney General for the State of Colorado has joined 20 other states in a lawsuit challenging the reductions in force at the US Department of Education. The introduction to the suit reads (in part):

Plaintiff states rely on the [US Department of Education] for an extraordinary array of programs...Incredibly, all of these significant and statutorily-mandated were covered by a lean staff of only 4,133 people—until March 11, when the Department of Education announced through a press release that it is reducing that staff by 50%. This massive reduction in force (RIF) is equivalent to incapacitating key, statutorily-mandated functions of the Department, causing immense damage to plaintiff states and their educational systems.

I will continue to send semi-weekly updates on Mondays and Thursdays by the end of the day. You can find [prior updates on our website at the bottom of this page](#).

Warm regards,

Susana Córdova