

As parents and community members, we want our schools to be places where every child regardless of race, background, ability, or zip code, has the resources and support they need to succeed. But recent moves by the federal government threaten to take us in the wrong direction.

On February 14, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education issued a “[Dear Colleague](#)” letter attacking programs that help ensure all students have access to high-quality education. Instead of addressing real issues like teacher shortages, mental health crises, school funding gaps, and poverty, this letter targets diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives—without even defining what DEI means.

Importantly, this letter, like many recent executive orders, is not a legal document, which it declares in its own subnote: “This guidance does not have the force and effect of law and does not bind the public or create new legal standards.”

The only goal of this letter is to create confusion, spread misinformation, and pressure schools to abandon programs that help students who need them most.

The Real Threat: Taking Resources Away from Students

This **political attack** on our schools is distracting from what matters: making sure every child has the tools and opportunities to thrive.

While federal officials focus on attacking programs that help children succeed, they have done nothing to address:

- **Severe teacher shortages**, especially in rural and underserved communities.
- **Gaps in school funding**, which leave many children without the same access to advanced classes, experienced teachers, and school supplies.
- **The growing mental health crisis**, where students struggle without enough school counselors or mental health resources.
- **Community wealth disparities**, which impact students' ability to access preschool, tutoring, and extracurricular opportunities.

These are the real challenges our schools face. Instead of addressing them, federal officials are **creating a crisis where there isn't one**—attacking programs that help level the playing field so that every student has a fair chance to succeed.

What Parents and Community Members Can Do

We cannot let political distractions get in the way of what's best for our kids. **Now is the time to stand up for our schools, our educators, and our students.**

1. Speak Up for Our Schools

- Tell school leaders you support programs that help every child succeed.
- Attend school board meetings and push back against misinformation—equity and inclusion don't harm students; they help them.
- Encourage educators to continue their important work—they need to hear from parents and community members who stand with them.

2. Get the Facts and Educate Others

- The Dear Colleague letter is NOT a law—it does not have legal power to force schools to end DEI programs.
- Equity in education is about fairness, not favoritism—it ensures every child gets what they need to succeed, whether they are gifted learners, students with disabilities, or children facing economic hardship.
- Misinformation is dangerous—help spread the truth about what's really happening in our schools.

3. Hold Decision-Makers Accountable

- Demand that elected officials focus on real education issues, like fixing school funding gaps, hiring more teachers, and expanding student mental health services.
- Watch for attempts to cut funding to schools that don't comply with this political agenda—we must fight to protect our local schools.
- Join with advocacy groups and other parents to ensure our children's education isn't used as a political pawn.

Conclusion: Our Kids Deserve Better

This fight **shouldn't be about politics—it's about our kids**. Every child deserves a great education, and that means making sure schools have the tools and resources to support them. We cannot let political pressure erase programs that help students succeed.

Now is the time to stand strong, stay united, and protect the future of our children's education. We must work together to ensure that every child, in every community, has the opportunities they need to thrive.