

The latest news, views, & tools in federal education policy

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Yael Clusman, Unsplash

What's Happening in Washington

**Please note: This update may not include all the changes currently happening in the federal government.*

Here's what's been happening in federal education policy for the month of February, and what lies ahead.

The U.S. Department of Education: The Senate confirmation hearing of Linda McMahon, President Trump's selection for Secretary of the Department of Education commenced on February 13, 2025. The recording can be found [here](#).

McMahon advanced out of committee on a party line vote of 12-11, and the full Senate will take up her nomination and vote on whether to confirm her as the next Secretary of Education. During her Committee Hearing, she discussed expanding school choice, moving federally funded programs currently supported at the Department of Education to other Administrative agencies, and moving the oversight of education policy to the states.



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Washington, Continued

The Race to Fund the Government: The current Continuing Resolution (CR) for the 2025 Fiscal Year is set to expire March 14, 2025. Congress needs to pass a FY25 budget, or another CR, in order to avoid a government shutdown.

On Friday, the U.S. Senate approved a [budget resolution](#) for FY2025 in a Vote-a-rama, which is when a chamber of Congress proposes and votes upon multiple amendments to the legislation with minimal debate. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget resolution last night on February 25 and will now move into the budget reconciliation process. The text can be found [here](#).

Sub-Cabinet Presidential Nominations: On February 12, President Trump announced his Sub-Cabinet Presidential Nominations, including 6 individuals to senior positions at the Department of Education. This list can be found [here](#).

State of American Education Hearing: On February 5, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Workforce hosted a hearing on the State of American Education. The list of witnesses and recap can be found [here](#).

IEL Policy Updates

119th Congressional Policy Agenda: Co-design IEL's 119th Congress Policy by the People Agenda with members of our network! This policy agenda will reflect the experiences and ideas of the hundreds of leaders we work with across our networks, including you, to address the most significant issues in education and workforce development. To provide your thoughts on what should be a part of IEL's 119th Congress Policy Agenda, [complete this survey](#).

Events & Resources

Register NOW for our 2025 Washington Policy Seminar (WPS)!

- Join us at the 61st annual Washington Policy Seminar during the Cherry Blossom season, March 17 to 19, 2025, in the Washington, D.C. area. WPS is your front-row seat to inside the beltway federal policy and national trends. [Register today!](#)

Webinars & Capacity Building Events

- [What do education leaders need to know about the Department of Education's new guidance on race and civil rights?](#) on February 28 at 1:30 pm ET. Hosted by the Brookings Institute
- [Strengthening School-Community Connections for Student Success](#) on Mar 19 at 3:00pm ET. Hosted by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)

New Research, Reports, & Analysis

- [Explaining the Impact of the Federal Funding Pause on People with Disabilities](#) by AAPD
- [Uneven Adoption of Artificial Intelligence Tools Among U.S. Teachers and Principals in the 2023-2024 School Year](#) by RAND
- [Strengthening School Violence Prevention: Expanding Intervention Options and Supporting K-12 School Efforts in Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management](#) By RAND
- [OpinionatED: Voters' Views on Education in 2024](#) by All4Ed
- [Standards Gap: Why Many Students Score Proficient on State Tests But Not on NAEP](#) by the 74 and FutureEd
- [2025 State of the State Addresses Education-Related Proposals](#) by the Education Commission of the States (ECS)
- [Connecting Schools and Communities](#) by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)