

# State Board and KSDE issue statement in response to the President's order to shut down the U.S. Department of Education

TOPEKA - The Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas State Department of Education acknowledge the President's decision to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education. While we await Congress' response, we will be reviewing the order over the next several days to ascertain the potential immediate and long-term impact on Kansas students, educators, and families.

Education is a state issue, and the State Board has constitutional authority over education. We appreciate the federal government recognizing that role.

For decades, federal support has played a critical role in ensuring equitable access to education, particularly for students with disabilities, those from low-income families, and rural communities. While we have received assurances that funding will not be affected, we do not know yet what impact the elimination of federal oversight will have for programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and the Higher Education Act (HEA). The administration has said there will be no programmatic disruption.

As we navigate this unprecedented transition, the State Board and KSDE remain committed to continue working with federal and state leaders, school districts, and community partners to protect educational opportunities for all students. We will clarify funding sources, policy implications, and legal obligations while maintaining close communication with schools to ensure a smooth transition with minimal classroom disruptions statewide.

We are grateful for the technical assistance that we have received from the U.S. Department of Education throughout the years.

The State Board and KSDE remain steadfast in its responsibility to support Kansas educators and students during this time of uncertainty.

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