



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families

Executive Order #14191

Date Issued: January 29, 2025

Topic: Education

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This order expands school choice programs by encouraging states to use federal funds to support K-12 educational choice initiatives, including charter schools, private school scholarships, and education savings accounts (ESAs).
- This order directs the Secretary of Education to issue guidelines within 60 days for how states should use federal formula funds to implement Choice initiatives.
- The order directs the Secretary of Education to include “education freedom” as a priority in discretionary grant programs.
- The order directs the Secretaries of Labor and Education to review their grant programs and submit a plan within 90 days to the President making recommendations for using discretionary grant programs to expand school choice programs.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The order directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance “regarding whether and how States receiving block grants for families and children from the Department, including the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), can use them to expand educational choice and support families who choose educational alternatives to governmental entities, including private and faith-based options.”
- According to the order, the Secretary of Defense should submit a plan to the President within 90 days to make recommendations for mechanisms available for “military-connected” families to use Department of Defense funds to attend schools of their choice.
- The order directs the Secretary of Interior to submit a plan to the President within 90 days to describe and recommend mechanisms for families of eligible students to use federal funding to attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Schools. Additionally, the Secretary will report on the performance of the BIE schools and identify local alternatives.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- School choice supporters argue that school choice programs, such as charter schools and voucher programs, offer Black Americans more options when it comes to deciding where their children will be educated. Though well-intended, the reality of school choice programs for Black students is more complex.
- Research has shown the unforeseen consequences of school choice programs. In particular, studies have shown that unregulated school choice programs can reinforce existing racial segregation with Black students ending up in under resourced schools. Relatedly, increasing federal funding for school choice programs often results in fewer resources being allocated to traditional public schools, which serve the majority of Black students. Lastly, unlike public schools, charter and private schools often operate with fewer regulations, leading to disparities in discipline, curriculum quality, admissions policies, and financial transparency, disproportionately affecting Black students.
- Without policies in place to ensure equity, adequate funding, and diversity, school choice could exacerbate educational disparities rather than alleviate them.





HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has a longstanding commitment to advancing equity in education. The CBC has an [Education and Labor Taskforce](#) that has historically worked to examine causes of increased segregation and ensure educational institutions are diverse and inclusive. To read more about the CBC's legacy on education policy issues, visit [Avoice](#), our virtual library.