



Testimony of Dr. Amy Loyd, CEO, All4Ed

Dismantling Education: What the Trump Administration's Illegal Attacks on Federal Programs Mean for Students, Families, and Educators

December 16, 2025

Thank you, Senator Hirono, and everyone, for having me here today.

My name is Dr. Amy Loyd. I'm the President and CEO of All4Ed, a national nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that every student—no matter their zip code, background, or life circumstances—graduates from high school prepared for college, career, and life.

Before leading All4Ed, I served as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, known as OCTAE, at the U.S. Department of Education.

For over 25 years I've worked as a leader across education policy and practice, and I launched my education career as a math teacher and family advocate for Alaska Native and Native American students.

Today I want to focus on **five central points**.

First: The dismantling of the Department of Education is illegal.

The Administration transferred core education administrative responsibilities—representing entire offices and billions of dollars—to four other agencies. **They did so in violation of the law.**

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 states clearly that federal funds cannot be transferred across agencies without authority from Congress.

That authority was not granted, nor even requested, and **Congress must intervene.**

Second: Other agencies are partners—not proxies—for education.

The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Interior, and State are **not designed to run federal education programs**—and they do not have the deep expertise required to serve all learners, including:

- students with disabilities,
- English learners,
- children in foster care or experiencing homelessness,
- Native students,
- adult learners with emerging literacy,
- and others who rely on federal protections.

Collaboration across federal agencies is critical—and I led exactly that kind of collaboration at OCTAE. But confusing the missions of the different agencies, or reducing the purpose of education to job training, does a disservice to learners, undermines our national competitiveness, and is at odds with the values of families and communities across the country.

Third: This is waste layered on top of dysfunction.

Instead of one central agency administering federal education policy, with these illegal interagency agreements, we now have five. Distributing responsibilities for education across five agencies doesn't reduce waste or bureaucracy—it creates it.

We have already seen this play out in the transfer of **OCTAE** to Labor. States have reported:

- funding delays,
- communication breakdowns,
- missing technical assistance channels,
- and confusion about reporting and compliance.

Some states were forced to front millions of state dollars while waiting for reimbursement. Other states slowed or halted programs entirely. Even the Administration's own internal documents admit that larger programs will be *much harder* to migrate over from ED to other agencies.

And as an example of waste on top of this:

When I was at ED, we consolidated staff into one building with renovated space to save money. Now those newly updated offices at ED sit vacant, while ED staff on detail to Labor are crammed into outdated offices—and they are using **two computers each**, one for Labor and one for Education, as they navigate mismatched agency systems.

Fourth: The real goal here is eliminating the federal role in public education.

The administration has been clear about this goal, and the President's proposed FY26 budget makes it unmistakable through devastating cuts and consolidations.

This, in addition to new law that will funnel public dollars to private schools, is the systematic and deliberate hollowing-out of our nation's commitment to public education.

You cannot claim to support creating opportunity in our nation while dismantling the very systems that make this equitable and scalable for all our learners.

Fifth—and most urgent in this moment—my ask.

Congress must act, in three ways

First: Hold formal oversight hearings.

As Assistant Secretary, I had to provide Congress with 90 days' notice to do something as simple as change a job description. Yet this administration has made changes that affect entire offices, billions of dollars, and the future of learners without any notice, transparency, or Congressional approval. Congress must provide the necessary oversight.

Second: Investigate budgetary and administrative cost and waste.

These interagency agreements require quarterly reconciliations. Congress should examine how these changes create bureaucracy and new administrative expenses instead of reducing them.

Taxpayers deserve to know what they are paying for.

Third, and most important today: Reinforce and expand statutory protections.

The bipartisan Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill includes language preventing the transfer of Title I and IDEA. This must be preserved—and expanded to protect all core Department functions, including the Office for Civil Rights.

In Conclusion,

Congress created the Department of Education to provide national leadership, protect civil rights, and ensure accountability for serving every student in every state.

Our nation's learners deserve our unwavering commitment to providing equitable access to an excellent education that builds their future. Instead, this chaos and disruption are undermining their future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I welcome your questions.