

February 13, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

Representatives from the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) have unilaterally cancelled an unprecedented number of contracts that support evaluation, research, and data collection for the U.S. Department of Education. When we know that the average student remains nearly half a grade level behind pre-pandemic achievement in math and reading, it is astonishing that the Administration would cancel work helping to bring evidence-based learning to students. Yet in States where they instituted evidence-based practices, like Alabama, scores improved. The cancellation of these contracts stops work to improve test scores, impedes accountability, hurts students' education, and stops work statutorily directed by Congress.

In cancelling these contracts DOGE took significant action to work against efficiency and effectiveness, cutting off support for educators and parents that want to know what works to improve outcomes. Projects that were cancelled were helping students, parents, teachers and principals. Here are just a few of many examples of the work that DOGE cancelled mid-stream. Cancelled projects were:

- Accelerating learning in math.
- Helping students with disabilities served under IDEA graduate from high school and achieve financial independence.
- Supporting efforts to help educators support college and career readiness in grades 6-12.
- Improving literacy outcomes in kindergarten – grade 3.
- Helping adults who struggle with literacy and numeracy find good jobs and achieve higher earnings.
- Determining what information is most beneficial to parents in making an informed decision regarding school choice.
- Examining the effectiveness of various teacher recruitment and retention programs.
- Understanding whether the law is meeting the needs of students with disabilities.
- Providing training to educators to help them improve their teaching skills in math, literacy, and other critical areas.

In addition to these R&D projects, several data collections and other contracts were cancelled. For example, DOGE rightly left the NAEP assessment contract alone, which is critical for understanding student achievement. But DOGE simultaneously reduced contracts that helped analyze the NAEP results and communicate those results back to the American public. This decision means that children will take a test whose results no one will ever learn about or be able to benefit from. This is wasteful, not efficient.

In fact, DOGE's actions stopped research midway through or late in a study, effectively paying for a study without benefiting from its results mid-project, leaving studies partly done without conclusion (denying students, teachers and principals critical education tools). This action prevents us from knowing whether programs work and leaves us on the path to a further decline in NAEP results and student outcomes. DOGE also caused the Department to fall out of

compliance with the law by stopping research and data collection work that is statutorily required.

These are just a few examples of the critical work these cancelled contracts were supporting on behalf of students, parents, and educators. These actions have curtailed parents' ability to know what works in schools, and severely harmed efforts across the country to help students achieve success in the classroom.

We call on Congress to address these actions by instructing the Acting Secretary of Education to reverse it. Further, there must be guardrails against future cancellations of contracts in bad faith, without cause. Thus, we request that Congress ask the Acting Secretary to provide a detailed response on what process will be implemented to ensure that cancelations are not a part of the Department's operations moving forward.

We appreciate your timely attention to this matter and please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Knowledge Alliance

Advance Illinois

AFT

All4Ed

Alliance for Learning Innovation

American Association of Colleges for
Teacher Education (AACTE)

American Educational Research Association

American Library Association

American Psychological Association
Services, Inc.

Association of Population Centers

Aurora Institute

Center for Research in Education and
Social Policy, University of Delaware

Civilytics Consulting

Council for Exceptional Children

Council of Administrators of Special
Education

EDGE Consulting Partners

EdTrust

Education Reform Now

Educators for Excellence

EquiVant Strategies

Getting Smart Collective

Global Science of Learning Education
Network

Impact4Scale

InnovateEDU

International Literacy Association

LEARN Coalition

Learning Data Insights

Literacy Design Collaborative

National Association of School
Psychologists

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Council on Measurement in
Education

National Education Association

Parents of Autistic Children of Northern
Virginia

PLACE, LLC

Population Association of America

Project Evident

Reading Recovery Council of North America

School Social Work Association of America

Society for Research on Child Development

Society for Research on Educational
Effectiveness

Software and Information Industry
Association (SIIA)

SRI

Teachers College, Columbia University

The Center for Education Market Dynamics

The Center for Research Use in Education

The History Co:Lab

The History Co:Lab

The Learning Agency

The National Rural Education Association

UnidosUS

University of California

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical
Campus

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Oregon College of Education

University of Washington

University of Washington College of
Education