

Tab 1

CTA Name: Reopen the Office of Special Education Programs

CTA Author: Kaye Peters

Date Created: 10/13/2025

Explainer (describe the issue):

The U.S. Department of Education gutted its special education division.

On Friday evening, October 10, the Department of Education announced it was firing 466 employees – leaving only two people working in the Office of Special Education Programs . This office makes sure local school districts are complying with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act , enacted by Congress in 1975 with bipartisan support. The office also oversees the distribution of funds to local school districts to support special education services.

More than 8 million infants, children and young adults received services under this act in 2023.

One of the former staff said, “If there is no staff, who the heck is going to administer this program?”

These cuts were made despite assurances by Education Secretary Linda McMahon that she would protect special education services. The services at risk include aides, personalized learning plans, and adaptive materials and equipment for students with physical, psychological, emotional and behavioral learning needs.

“Eliminating federal capacity to support IDEA is harmful to people with disabilities, their families, and the professionals who serve them, and it runs counter to everything our members work toward every day,” said Chad Rummel, executive director of the Council for Exceptional Children, the world’s largest professional association for educators, and

families working with students who have learning disabilities. Mr. Rummel went on to say that closing down these offices puts special education in grave jeopardy.

The organization is asking its members and the public to contact their U.S. senators and representatives. “We urgently call on you to appeal to Congress to undo these cuts for the sake of children with disabilities, their families, and the educators who serve them.”

Call to Action (what specific action are we taking):

We are calling our U.S. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar, and appropriate representatives to urge the Department of Education to reverse the firings, in line with the Council for Exceptional Children’s call.

Constituents of Rep. Ilhan Omar, who sits on the House Education and the Workforce Committee, should make a specific appeal for her to demand a hearing on the cuts in committee.

Contact Info: (who are we contacting)

U.S. Senator Tina Smith:

DC Office Phone: (202) 224-5641

MN Office Phone: (651) 221-1016

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar:

DC Office Phone: (202) 224-3244

DC Office Fax: (202) 228-2186

MN Office Phone: (612) 727-5220

Twin Cities area US House reps:

Ilhan Omar: (CD5)

- (202) 225-4755 (DC Office)
- (612) 333-1272 (Minneapolis office)

Betty McCollum: (CD4)

- (202) 225-6631 (DC)
- St. Paul: (651) 224-9191

Kelly Morrison: (CD3)

- DC: (202) 225-2871

Other Reps: Find your rep here:

<https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member>

To email Use [Democracy.io](https://democracy.io) to send an email to all 3 at the same time.

Sample Script (voice or email):

I am _____ and live in {community name}.

Optional: I am a member of Indivisible Twin Cities.

Congress must require the Department of Education to rehire the staff in the Office of Special Education so that children who need services do not have their education interrupted by this political act.

The cuts are a serious threat to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, passed in 1975 and reauthorized in 2004.

Optional: Your own statement if you choose about why this matters to you.

Resources: (include links)

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/special-education-OSEP-OSERS-federal-rifs-Government-shutdown/802662/>

<https://www.npr.org/2025/10/13/nx-s1-5572489/trump-special-education-department-funding-layoffs-disabilities>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2025/10/11/education-department-special-ed-office-layoffs-shutdown/86646104007/>

Minnesota chapter of Council for Exceptional Children

https://minnesota.exceptionalchildren.org/?_gl=1*23jsfw*_gcl_au*NzAyMzU0ODEwLjE3NjA0NjM2NzI.

Copy of Tab 1

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Make sure that the following people have editor rights (besides yourself)

- bexlarson99@gmail.com
- rebecca@indivisiblewincities
- ptetta@gmail.com
- deborahschlick987@gmail.com

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Tab 3

To	Norman Draper  Person  Person
Cc	 Person
Bcc	 Person
Subject	
