

This template letter to the Secretary of Education (Linda McMahon) highlights concerns about the potential dismantling of the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and its Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), as proposed by President Trump. OSEP plays a vital role in ensuring that students with disabilities, school districts, and educators receive the support needed to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Your advocacy is essential in preserving the USDOE and OSEP to protect the success and future opportunities of students with disabilities.

**Please update the highlighted sections in the letter with your personal information before sending.**

To contact U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon (email, address, or both), you can use the following information:

**Mailing Address:** 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

**Phone Number:** (202) 456-1111

**Email:** Linda.McMahon@ed.gov

3-18-2025

Dear Honorable Secretary McMahon:

As a parent of a child who receives special education services under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA), I am reaching out to seek your continued support for ALL students in our schools. Children with disabilities rely on these essential services to achieve success. These supports include individualized and group instruction in core subjects such as math, reading, and adapted physical education, as well as speech and behavioral interventions when needed. While some instruction occurs alongside their nondisabled peers, small-group direct instruction remains crucial for meeting high-intensity educational needs. These services have facilitated significant progress over the years and remain critical for long-term development, future employment, and independent living. We need your leadership to ensure that these vital programs continue, regardless of where the education function resides within the federal government.

In your remarks upon joining the U.S. Department of Education, you emphasized the vital role of parents in the education process. As parents, we deeply value being part of our child's *Individualized Education Program* (IEP) team, working closely with teachers, related service providers, and school staff. Your comments on 3 March 2025 were especially encouraging for families like mine. You affirmed that "Parents are the primary decision-makers in their children's education" and emphasized the Department of Education's responsibility to ensure schools protect all students from discrimination while fulfilling their legal obligation to provide equal access to education. Building on this conviction, you further indicated "the Department of Education has a solemn responsibility to protect all students from discrimination, especially our most vulnerable. We will ensure schools are fulfilling their commitment to provide all students with equal access to educational opportunities and not placing unnecessary burdens on families to fight for special education services for their children to which they are entitled under law." By preventing unnecessary barriers to special education services ensured through IDEA, all students can receive the support needed to be successful.

Our State Department of Education and local school district have benefited from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) within the U.S. Department of Education. Each year, OSEP provides invaluable technical assistance through Dear Colleague Letters, Letters of Policy Clarification, and support for Parent Education Centers in every state. These resources are essential in helping parents stay informed and engaged in their child's education. OSEP also plays a critical role in ensuring accountability at the state and local levels while promoting efficiency and effectiveness and reducing waste.

Thank you for your continued support of the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** and the **Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)** have provided advocacy and leadership for over 50 years. As parents, we rely on your leadership to uphold these high-quality services for our children, their teachers, and all education support staff. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring students with disabilities receive the education they deserve and ask for your continued support. Please contact me if I can provide additional information about our child's special education program.

Respectfully,  
*Your Signature*

Your Name

Parent of Special Education Student

Your School District, Your State