



Division of Research Policy Newsletter: URGENT Update on OSEP RIFs

Hello DR members! We are sending an off-cycle newsletter to ensure that members are informed of the recent OSEP RIFs. Please feel free to forward this widely!

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What's Happening?

On October 11, nearly all personnel within the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) were terminated in a reduction in force (RIF), as has been widely [reported](#). OSEP is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts. Firing OSEP employees eliminates the expertise and oversight critical to ensuring IDEA implementation in states, eroding rights for children with disabilities and their parents. Without OSEP, IDEA is in grave jeopardy. See full CEC update [here](#).

What Can We Do in Response?

Stay in community:

- A Take some [deep breaths](#).
- A Text a colleague to say *thank you* for their ongoing work to support kids with disabilities and their families. Strong community ties are our biggest resource!

Call on Congress to act:

- A Reach out to your representatives using this quick [form](#) from CEC. Check out the [TED October 13th Updated Advocacy Toolkit](#) for fantastic support and resources.

Raise public awareness:

- A Spread the word on your socials using this easy [social media toolkit](#).
- A Record a testimonial for [NPR](#) about the importance of federal workers in OSEP by leaving a 45 second voicemail at [855-236-1212](#).

Learn more:

- A [Watch CEC's Executive Director discuss the impacts of the layoffs at ED on special education programs on CNN](#)
- A Fact sheet from TED: [What is OSEP and Why is it Important?](#)
- A Fact Sheet from CEC: [Federal vs. State Role in Special Education](#)
- A EdWeek has created a [tracker](#) marking the effects of the shutdown on education.
- A National Parents Union has created a [unique fact sheet](#) for each state about the impact of the Department of Education in each state.