



Division for Research Policy Newsletter: September 2025

Welcome to AY25-26!

We hope everyone had a good summer! As we head into a new academic year, the DR Policy Committee is here to help navigate current events and policies impacting special education research. Each month, we plan to send out a brief newsletter with actions, news and resources to share with your communities.

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Research Funding & Policies Updates

IDEA Funding: Over the summer, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced a funding bill for Fiscal Year 2026, which affirms the importance of each of the components of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The bill sent a strong counter-message to a proposal that would eliminate IDEA Part B preschool grants and IDEA Part D programs, including personnel preparation and development grants, technical assistance centers, and parent centers. The next step is for the House Budget Appropriations Committee to approve this bill. This will likely occur when Congress reconvenes September 2nd. This bill is likely to impact the amount of funding available for research grants as well.

Federal Data Collection: Another headline to note: much of our research depends on access to federal data sets and particular instruments. However, a recent executive order may limit collection of data regarding racial disparities. See this article from [K12 Dive](#) for a summary.

Want More Funding Updates? For detailed nightly updates on research funding, we recommend subscribing to [Education Research Nightly Pulse](#).

In Case You Missed It: Research-Relevant Articles

- In 'The Cuts,' Emily Hanford shows how shrinking IES jeopardizes education research, stalling evidence that teachers and kids depend on. Listen to her latest podcast here: <https://www.apmreports.org/episode/2025/08/21/sold-a-story-e14-the-cuts>
- [Forbes article](#) on the value of policy experts for education research
- The Senate HELP Committee's new [vision for K12 reforms](#)

- A [BBC perspective](#) offering an overview of the implications of the downsizing of the Department of Education
- <https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/08/18/ed-department-preparing-to-cut-millions-in-special-education-funding-advocates-warn/31584/>

Policy Homework for this Month

Check out the [CEC's Legislative Action Center](#), where CEC provides templates to easily reach out to policy makers about current topics relevant to special education. See the recent action: "Save All Parts of IDEA in FY 2026."

Ongoing Resource Links

For weekly policy updates, subscribe to the [CEC Policy Insider](#).

[CEC's Dive-In Podcast](#): This podcast provides in-depth explanations of current policies and events in education

[TED's Updated Advocacy Toolkit](#) (Prior version: [Policy Advocacy Toolkit](#)): CEC's Teacher Education Division (TED) has created this fantastic toolkit with lots of resources and action steps. Dr. Kaitlyn Brennan also provides a weekly [Washington Update](#).

Regular updates are also available from these organizations:

- [Disability Scoop](#)
- [Alliance for Learning Innovation](#)
- [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#)
- [AERA Research Funding Advocacy Efforts](#)

If you come across a link or resource that you'd like to see included in a future newsletter, please email kristabel.stark@uvm.edu or ciullo@txstate.edu.

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