



Key Takeaways—Education and School Board Law webinar Vol. 4 (President Trump’s executive orders)

The following are key takeaways from CALN’s *Education and School Board Law* webinar on Feb. 28, 2025, which covered President Trump’s recent executive orders relating to education.

Please note: These summaries can provide you with helpful information, but they do not and are not intended to constitute legal advice or create an attorney-client relationship. Instead, they are for general informational purposes only. You are encouraged to contact your board attorney, or to hire a personal attorney, to obtain advice with respect to legal matters.

What is an Executive Order?

A signed, written, and published directive through which the President of the United States manages the operations of the federal government. These directives are implemented by executive branch departments and agencies.

The bottom line: While understanding these orders is important, it is even more important to monitor and comply with departmental and agency directives (such as from the U.S. Department of Education).

Key executive orders to know about issued by the Trump Administration (as of Feb. 28, 2025):

- [EO 14149](#) (1/20/25), “Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship” • [EO 14168](#) (1/20/25), “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government”
- [EO 14173](#) (1/21/25), “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”
- [EO 14188](#) (1/29/25), “Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism” • [EO 14190](#) (1/29/25), “Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling” • [EO 14191](#) (1/29/25), “Expanding Educational Freedom and Opportunity for Families” • [EO 14201](#) (2/5/25), “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports”
- [EO 14202](#) (2/7/25), “Eradicating Anti-Christian Bias”
- [EO 14214](#) (2/15/25), “Keeping Education Accessible and Ending COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in Schools”

IMPLEMENTATION ALERT – “Defending Women” Executive Order

- On January 31, the Office for Civil Rights under the U.S. Department of Education

(ED/OCR) sent a [Dear Colleague letter](#) to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education stating that OCR will enforce the Trump Administration's 2020 Title IX rule.

- The Biden Administration's 2024 Title IX rule was vacated by a federal court and should be ignored.
- **The bottom line: ED/OCR and the Grimm decision (4th Circuit) now have differing views.** *Therefore, when acting on this issue, board members should consult with their board attorneys, weigh their options, and make decisions in the best interest of their districts and the students they serve.*

IMPLEMENTATION ALERT – “Ending Racial Discrimination” Executive Order

- On February 14, ED/OCR sent a [Dear Colleague letter](#) to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education providing a compliance deadline of **February 28, 2025**. It reads:
- “All educational institutions are advised to:
 - (1) ensure that their policies and actions comply with existing civil rights law;
 - (2) cease all efforts to circumvent prohibitions on the use of race by relying on proxies or other indirect means to accomplish such ends; and
 - (3) cease all reliance on third-party contractors, clearinghouses, or aggregators that are being used by institutions in an effort to circumvent prohibited uses of race.”

Remember these helpful considerations:

- The Trump administration is moving quickly to issue guidance, issue regulations, and commence enforcement actions.
- Get ahead of this by adding, amending, or removing policies and holding your superintendent accountable for implementation.
- Ask questions, make policy, direct that actions be taken, and hold the superintendent accountable.
- Things have changed. The status quo is over. You've got this, and [CALN is here to support you.](#)