



Maine Needs the U.S. Department of Education

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President Trump's **attempts to dismantle** the federal Department of Education could have catastrophic impacts on Maine's children and communities. Education is primarily a state and local responsibility. But the federal Department of Education still plays an essential role. While only about 10% of Maine's education funds come from the federal government, they support crucial areas from cradle to career.

A large portion of this funding — about \$62 million in 2024 — is Title I funding, which is dedicated specifically for the education of students from low-income communities. This money is flexible in how it can be used and often goes to meet critical needs, like hiring teachers or providing tutoring.

States also receive federal funding for students requiring special education services. Maine has a relatively high rate of qualifying students — **20.1%**, compared to a national rate of 15% — and, in 2024, it received \$66 million for special education.