



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Reinstating Common Sense School Discipline Policies

Executive Order #14280

Date Issued: April, 23 2025

Topic: Education

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This executive order replaces what it describes as “equity ideology-based” discipline policies with those that uphold “common sense” and safety without using frameworks that center race or equity considerations.
- The order shifts school disciplinary authority away from federal agencies and civil rights guidance, granting sole discretion to classroom teachers and administrators with minimal federal oversight.
- The order rolls back previous administrations’ commitments to address racial disparities in school discipline practices, stating that previous directives “required schools to discriminate on the basis of race by imposing discipline based on racial characteristics, rather than on objective behavior alone.”



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The order directs the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General, to provide new guidance to State and local education agencies (LEAs) regarding school discipline.
- The order threatens the federal funding of schools that fail to comply with Civil Rights Act of 1964 Title VI protections against racial discrimination in their school discipline practices. In this case, the order effectively reinterprets "racial discrimination" to focus on perceived discrimination against white students, using it to challenge equity-oriented practices designed to address disparities affecting students of color.
- Within 60 days of the order, the Secretary of Education and Attorney General will work with Governors and State Attorney General to begin coordinating and designing guidance regarding school discipline policies and practices to model. Such guidance will reject equity-based approaches and promote race-neutral standards.
- Within 90 days of the order, the Secretary of Defense shall issue a revised school discipline code for children of military families that is in compliance with the order.
- Within 120 days of this order, The Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, along with the Attorney General, will submit a report to the President. The report will provide updates on the status of "discriminatory-equity-ideology-based-school discipline and behavior modification techniques in American public education."



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- More specifically, the report is to include the following:
 - An analysis of Title VI discipline investigations since 2009;
 - A review of how federally funded nonprofit organizations may be using taxpayer dollars to support discipline or behavior programs rooted in "discriminatory equity ideologies," along with recommendations to prevent federal funds from supporting such practices;
 - A review of exemplary discipline-related policies and curricular practices that "do not promote discriminatory equity ideology;
 - Model school discipline policies that prioritize student safety, uphold non-discrimination, and reflect "common sense," American values, and traditional virtues.





HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- Reinstating "common sense" school discipline policies may have significant adverse effects on Black students, who already face disproportionate disciplinary actions in educational settings. By eliminating considerations of racial disparities in discipline, the order risks exacerbating existing inequities.
- Black students are already more likely to face harsher disciplinary measures. For instance, Black girls represent 15% of female students but account for nearly 50% of suspensions and expulsions among girls.
- Studies indicate that Black students often receive harsher punishments for similar behaviors compared to their peers, suggesting that disciplinary actions are influenced by subjective interpretations rather than objective assessments.
- Disparities in discipline begin as early as preschool, with Black children comprising 19% of preschoolers but accounting for 47% of multiple out-of-school suspensions.
- Exclusionary discipline practices contribute to the "school-to-prison pipeline," increasing the likelihood of academic failure and future incarceration for Black students.
- The removal of guidance addressing racial disparities in discipline may hinder efforts to create equitable educational environments and reduce the effectiveness of programs aimed at supporting marginalized students. The executive order's emphasis on uniform disciplinary policies without consideration of existing racial disparities may disproportionately harm Black students, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage and limiting opportunities for academic and socioemotional wellbeing.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have expressed their disagreement with the recent education related executive orders.

- **Rep. Robert “Bobby” Scott (VA-03)**, along with democratic members of the House Committee on Education and Workforce issued a statement: “Under the guise of eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), the Trump Administration issued a slew of education related executive orders that ignores this nation’s history and continued reality of resisting equal educational opportunities to all of America’s students. In fact, through massive resistance, states and communities adopted policies and practices – through funding, [disciplinary practices](#), to name a few – that disproportionately and negatively impact students of color and students with disabilities.” [Full Statement](#)