



**CENTER FOR
BLACK EDUCATOR
DEVELOPMENT**

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The Center for Black Educator Development Responds to the U.S. Department of Education Layoffs

March 12, 2025 — Today, Sharif El-Mekki, the CEO of the Center for Black Educator Development, issued the following statement condemning the U.S. Department of Education's "[reduction in force](#)" decision:

"Cutting the U.S. Department of Education is more than a political move – it's a direct threat to educational access, equity, and opportunity, especially for Black teachers and students.

"For decades, the Education Department has played a crucial role in protecting students' civil rights, providing funding for students from underresourced and rural communities and those living with disabilities, and developing a workforce that reflects the diversity of our country. Without the oversight from the Education Department, the racial and economic divides in education will widen, and Black students – who benefit most from culturally responsive teaching – will face even greater disparities.

"Programs designed to strengthen the educator workforce are now at risk, further devaluing the teaching profession and hindering progress toward equitable education. That's why the Center for Black Educator Development has endorsed the Department of Education Protection Act, [introduced](#) by Congresswoman Jahana Hayes. This bill would shield the Education Department from dismantlement by prohibiting the use of federal funds to decentralize, reduce staffing, or alter its functionality. We stand alongside the American Federation of Teachers and others in supporting this critical legislation.

"Education has always been a battleground for justice, and now is the time to fight. At the Center for Black Educator Development, we will continue working to rebuild and sustain the Black Teacher Pipeline, ensuring that no policy decision – no matter how harmful – stops us from securing the education our children deserve.

"Now is the time to organize, advocate and act. Our students' futures depend on it."

Take Action:

- Call your congressional members and show your support for the U.S. Department of Education.
- Attend local public events planned for next week during the congressional recess and make your voice heard.
- Get involved with your local school board.

- Stay connected and join the [#WeNeedBlackTeachers campaign](#).

#SaveED #SavePublicSchools

The Center for Black Educator Development is a non-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the national Black Teacher Pipeline through teaching pathways, professional learning opportunities, and policy and advocacy efforts. To learn more, visit www.thecenterblacked.org

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