



Students' Civil Rights Are Under Attack

Timeline of Civil Rights Attacks by Department of Education

- **January 17, 2017 – Betsy DeVos Confirmation Hearing**
 - Secretary DeVos [fails to recognize that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) is a federal law](#) that must be followed by all schools receiving federal dollars.
 - Secretary DeVos does not affirmatively state whether she believes that all schools receiving federal dollars should be held to the same standards of accountability – including [protection from harassment or discrimination](#).
- **February 22, 2017 – Rescission of Title IX Guidance on Transgender Students**
 - The Department of Education (ED) issues Dear Colleague letter [notifying schools of the rescission](#) of the May 2016 Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students.
- **June 16, 2017 – Memo Leaked on Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Processing Manual**
 - An [internal memo](#) was leaked on how OCR should be processing systemic complaints, ultimately [limiting the scope](#) of the Department and seeking quicker resolutions.
- **August 1, 2017 – Secretary DeVos Begins Issuing Final Approval for State ESSA Plans**
 - As of now, 40 state ESSA plans have been approved, many of which [violate core equity requirements of the law](#).
- **September 22, 2017 – Rescission of Title IX Guidance on Campus Sexual Misconduct**
 - ED [notifies schools of recession](#) of the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence and the 2014 Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence.
- **October 26, 2017 – President Trump nominates Kenneth L. Marcus to be the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights**
 - President Trump nominates a highly controversial figure to oversee the Office of Civil Rights who is widely opposed by civil rights organizations and has not yet been confirmed in the Senate.
- **February 27, 2018 – ED Opens a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NRRM) on Significant Disproportionality**
 - ED formally opened a NPRM to [delay the implementation of the significant disproportionality regulation](#).
- **March 5, 2018 – OCR Amends Case Processing Manual**
 - OCR began [dismissing hundreds of cases](#) those related to website accessibility.
- **March 12, 2018 – White House and ED Propose Federal Commission on School Safety**
 - A White House Commission, chaired by Secretary DeVos, recommended a study of the [repeal of the 2014 Discipline Policies](#) by Obama Administration, which includes:
 - 2014 ED-DOJ [School Discipline Guidance](#) package
 - Guidance on the legal limitations on the use of [restraint and seclusion in schools](#)
 - The [Equity in IDEA](#) regulation on significant disproportionality
 - Guidance calling states to [end corporal punishment](#)
 - Guidance package on the inclusion of [positive behavioral supports in Individualized Education Plans \(IEPs\)](#) to promote inclusion and a free, appropriate public education for students with disabilities
 - Guidance on best practices and procedures for [school resource officers](#)
 - Resources for charter schools to promote [a positive school culture](#)