

Carol Burris, Executive Director, Network for Public Education (NPE)--Tell Congress: Don't Let Linda McMahon Slash Funding for Children and Veterans to Fund School Choice.

It is generally known in education circles that U.S. Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon is in the process of dismantling the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). USDOE was established by Congress and thus cannot be eliminated by the Secretary of Education; however, the Secretary has been eviscerating the department by slashing staff and proposing to eliminate \$8.5 billion in congressionally funded programs. The Secretary proposes the elimination of several programs by forbidding states to use USDOE block grant funds for specific, previously funded programs. At the same time, the Secretary proposes huge increases for private school support.

Carol Burris writes:

Tell Congress: Don't Let Linda McMahon Slash Funding for Children and College Students to Fund School Choice.

She proposes eliminating \$8.5 billion in Congressionally funded programs—28 in total—abolishing 10 outright and shoving the other 18 into a \$2 billion block grant. That's \$4.5 billion less than those 18 programs received last year.

[Send your letter by clicking here.](#)

And it gets worse: States are banned from using the block grant to support the following programs funded by Congress:

- Aid for migrant children whose families move frequently for agricultural work
- English Language Acquisition grants for emerging English learners
- Community schools offering wraparound services
- Grants to improve teacher effectiveness and leadership
- Innovation and research for school improvement
- Comprehensive Centers, including those serving students with disabilities
- Technical assistance for desegregation
- The Ready to Learn program for young children

These aren't just budget cuts—they're targeted strikes.

McMahon justifies cutting support for migrant children by falsely claiming the program "encourages ineligible non-citizens to access taxpayer dollars." That is a lie. Most migrant farmworkers are U.S. citizens or have H-2A visas. They feed this nation with their backbreaking labor.

The attack continues in higher education:

- Pell Grants are slashed by \$1,400 on average; the maximum grant drops from \$7,395 to \$5,710
- Federal Work-Study loses \$1 billion—an 80% cut
- TRIO programs, which support **low-income students, veterans, and students with disabilities, are eliminated**
- Campus child care programs for student-parents are defunded

In all, \$1.67 billion in student college assistance is gone—wiped out on top of individual Pell grant cuts.

And yet, McMahon *increased* funding for the federal Charter Schools Program to half a billion dollars for a sector that saw an increase of only eleven schools last year. Meanwhile, her allies in Congress are pushing a \$5 billion private school and homeschool voucher scheme through the so-called Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA).

And despite reducing Department staff by 50%, she only cuts the personnel budget by 10%.

This is not budgeting. It is a war on public education.

This is a blueprint for privatization, cruelty, and the systematic dismantling of opportunity for America's children.

We cannot let it stand.

Raise your voice. [Send your letter](#). Call Congress. Protest.

Tell Congress: We will not sit silently while they dismantle our children's future.