

Lindsey Burke—Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Programs, US Department of Education: “If America’s public schools cease to exist tomorrow, America would be a better place.”

The US Department of Education was established by Congress in 1979 to support the public common school system (vouchers and charters were not in the picture at that date).

In 2025 the US Department of Education is being dismantled by the Administration with or without congressional approval.

So what is the motivation for trashing the US Department of Education? A US Department of Education [press release](#) issued June 6, 2025 announcing the appointment of Lindsey Burke’s appointment states the following:

The U.S. Department of Education today announced additional appointees who will work to carry out President Trump and Secretary McMahon’s vision for making American education the best in the world.

Lindsey Burke, Ph.D. – Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Programs

Lindsey Burke spent the last 17 years at the Heritage Foundation, where she was most recently Director of the Center for Education Policy and the Mark A. Kolokotronis Fellow in Education. In that capacity, she oversaw Heritage’s preschool, K-12, and higher education policy and research. Lindsey’s scholarly research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Social Science Quarterly* and *Educational Research and Evaluation*, and she has published hundreds of policy reports on a range of education issues and testified before Congress on numerous occasions. In 2021, Lindsey was tapped to join Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin’s transition steering committee and was appointed to serve on the Youngkin landing team for education. She was also appointed by Governor Youngkin to serve on the Board of Visitors for George Mason University.

Lindsey has served as a fellow at EdChoice, the namesake foundation of Milton and Rose Friedman, on the national advisory board of Learn4Life, a network of public charter schools serving opportunity youth, on the board of the Educational Freedom Institute, on the advisory board of the Independent Women’s Forum’s Education Freedom Center, and on the advisory board of the University of Austin’s Center for Education and Public Service. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Politics from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA, a master of teaching degree in Foreign Language Education from the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D in Education Policy from George Mason University.

A recent [ProPublica](#) article included quotes about public education from Ms. Burke:

Lindsey Burke, with The Heritage Foundation: “I’m optimistic that, you know, five years from now a majority of kids are going to be in a private school choice program.” And “If American’s public schools cease to exist tomorrow, America would be a better place.”

The “fox guarding the henhouse” comes to mind.

Those in charge of the US Department of Education are in the process of dismantling it. Those who advocate for the preservation of the public common school should challenge the public officials who are allied with the public school privatizers.