



July 8, 2025

Secretary Linda McMahon
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Acting Assistant Secretary Craig Trainor
Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: Urgent message regarding the Civil Rights Data Collection

Dear Secretary McMahon and Acting Assistant Secretary Trainor:

Time is running short to finalize the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2025-26 school year. We are supportive of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), continuing to collect important civil rights data from every public school district for the 2025-26 school year through the CRDC. For more than five decades, the CRDC and its predecessor collection has captured data on policies and practices that impact educational opportunities. These data provide crucial longitudinal evidence to families, schools and the research community about student access and participation in curricula and programs, educational outcomes, and other levers of educational opportunity that are used for continuous improvement and evaluation purposes.

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, OCR published a proposed 2025-26 collection for a 60-day comment period on October 17, 2024. In response to comments received from 104 commenters, OCR published an amended proposed collection for a 30-day comment period on January 16, 2025. Although not all of the undersigned agreed with all the responses to comments, we were pleased that OCR was moving to finalize the collection prior to the summer, when many schools make changes to their record keeping systems.

OCR withdrew that amended proposed collection on February 10, 2025. There has been no public announcement since then.

In order to report quality data to the CRDC, school districts need sufficient time to prepare their student information systems to track and record the required information. Ideally, school districts would know well before the school year begins what they will be required to report to the CRDC after the school year ends. But, at a minimum, school districts should be told early in the school year – particularly if new data elements are added or definitions are being revised.

As of today, there seems to be no way the 2025-26 CRDC will be approved prior to September 2025. This is because, as you know, the 30-day comment period required by the Paperwork Reduction Act after publication of the proposed collection is followed by a 30-day window for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to act. And we understand that in practice the OMB can take even longer than that window.

We urge immediate action in order to implement this essential data collection. Simply the timetable has no more flexibility. The Office for Civil Rights must restart the process by immediately publishing the proposed Civil Rights Data Collection for the 2025-26 school year for a 30-day comment period.

If we can provide any assistance or you would like to discuss this issue further, you can contact one of the undersigned.

Sincerely,



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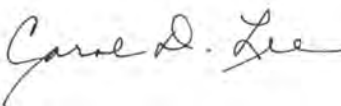
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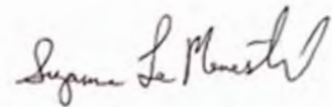
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