



## SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CCP

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

December 18, 2025

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

Dear Secretary McMahon,

As Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, I believe that training the next generation of talent is an essential element of outcompeting the CCP. As such, I am writing with serious concerns about the Administration's decision to cut essential programmatic funding and shift core Department of Education offices, including the Office of Educational Technology, to other departments as part of a larger effort to dismantle the Department in its entirety. These changes weaken America's ability to compete in STEM, artificial intelligence, and scientific innovation at a moment when global competition is intensifying. Drastically cutting funding and moving essential education programs into agencies with little experience managing federal education policy risks disrupting services for students and schools that are paramount to educating our next generation of high-skilled workers in key industries and training the next generation of researchers in key STEM fields.

One piece of the Trump Administration and Secretary McMahon's campaign to dismantle the Department of Education is the move to dismantle the current Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, by transferring its programs and duties to the Department of Labor threatening to disrupt a critical workforce pipeline.<sup>1</sup> OCTAE provides hands-on training in fields like advanced manufacturing, health sciences, and information technology, and oversees the Perkins V program, whose \$1.4 billion supports more than 11 million students across all 50 states.<sup>2</sup> With staffing cuts and unclear leadership, states are already reporting delays and

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<sup>1</sup> Bianca Quilantan, Juan Perez Jr, and Nick Niedzwiadek. The Education Department gave another agency power to distribute its money. It hasn't gone well. *Politico*. November 24, 2025.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/11/24/the-education-department-gave-another-agency-power-to-distribute-money-it-hasnt-gone-smoothly-00663976>

<sup>2</sup> Alyson Klein. "Trump Shifted CTE to the Labor Dept. What Has That Meant for Schools?." *Education Week*. November 21, 2025. <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/trump-shifted-cte-to-the-labor-dept-what-has-that-meant-for-schools/2025/11>; Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Employment. Perkins V. <https://cte.ed.gov/legislation/perkins-v>; State of New York v. Linda McMahon, No. 1:25-cv-10601 MJJ at \*67, \*68 (D. Mass. Nov. 25, 2025), <https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Dkt-187-Amended-Complaint-.pdf>.



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confusion about accessing federal funding.<sup>3</sup> Without strong federal support, programs could shrink, equipment could fall behind, and students could lose access to the training they need for high-skill, high-wage jobs.<sup>4</sup> This is especially concerning as global competitors significantly expand and modernize their own technical training systems.

Another piece of the puzzle in the broader dismantling of the Department of Education is the weakening of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), undermining the nation's ability to understand what works in American schools. Canceling nearly \$900 million in research grants and eliminating 90% of the IES staff undercuts the federal government's capacity to track student progress, identify learning gaps, and guide state and local decision making.<sup>5</sup> NCES's collapse will make it, in the words of a recent lawsuit, "impossible to track progress, assess learning, identify gaps affecting students, and set priorities for attention over time and across the country."<sup>6</sup> Losing this capacity puts educators, researchers, and policymakers at a significant disadvantage at a time when the CCP is accelerating their capabilities for tracking and measuring educational progress.<sup>7</sup>

Eliminating the Office of Educational Technology leaves states and school districts without a national partner to help them navigate rapidly evolving challenges related to AI, cybersecurity, digital equity, and responsible technology use. OET has long helped schools adopt evidence-based tools and avoid costly mistakes. Without its leadership, states will be left to confront these issues on their own, creating inconsistent standards and widening inequities across the country.<sup>8</sup> This decision comes as other nations, especially the PRC, modernize their

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<sup>3</sup> Bianca Quilantan, Juan Perez Jr, and Nick Niedzwiadek. The Education Department gave another agency power to distribute its money. It hasn't gone well. *Politico*. November 24, 2025.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/11/24/the-education-department-gave-another-agency-power-to-distribute-money-it-hasnt-gone-smoothly-00663976> ; State of New York v. Linda McMahon, No. 1:25-cv-10601 MJJ at \*67, \*68 (D. Mass. Nov. 25, 2025), <https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Dkt-187-Amended-Complaint-.pdf>.; UnidosUS. "The threat to education funding is far from over." <https://unidosus.org/progress-report/the-threat-to-education-funding-is-far-from-over/>

<sup>4</sup> State of New York v. Linda McMahon, No. 1:25-cv-10601 MJJ at \*67, \*68 (D. Mass. Nov. 25, 2025), <https://democracyforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Dkt-187-Amended-Complaint-.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Juan Perez Jr. and Rebecca Carballo. "DOGE announces \$881 million in cuts for Education Department contracts." *Politico*. February 10, 2025. <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/10/education-department-pauses-research-contracts-00203494>. Kara Arundel, "Institute of Education Sciences cuts imperil high-quality research, lawsuits allege," *K-12 Dive*, April 16, 2025, <https://www.k12dive.com/news/education-research-in-peril-lawsuits-Trump-IES-NAEP/745513>.

<sup>6</sup> Kara Arundel. "Institute of Education Sciences cuts imperil high-quality research, lawsuits allege." *K-12 Dive*. April 16, 2025. <https://www.k12dive.com/news/education-research-in-peril-lawsuits-Trump-IES-NAEP/745513/>

<sup>7</sup> Minister of Education, Huai Jinpeng. "Deepening Digital Transformation, Building A Bright Future of Education." *Ministry of Education*. February 12, 2023. [http://en.moe.gov.cn/features/2023WorldDigitalEducationConference/KeynoteSpeech/202302/t20230214\\_1044654.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/features/2023WorldDigitalEducationConference/KeynoteSpeech/202302/t20230214_1044654.html)

<sup>8</sup> Lauraine Langreo and Arianna Prothero, "The Ed. Dept. Axed Its Office of Ed Tech. What That Means for Schools," *Education Week*, March 18, 2025, <https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/the-ed-dept-axed-its-office-of-ed-tech-what-that-means-for-schools/2025/03> .



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education systems, using AI to train students for high-skill careers that will shape the global economy.<sup>9</sup> These changes will in the words of one expert leave “a gaping hole in those efforts at a time when technology is accelerating at a pace where we can’t afford to lose ground.”<sup>10</sup>

America is still home to the best and brightest and we need to keep it that way. In the last year, at least 85 top scientists previously working in the U.S. have left to join PRC research institutions.<sup>11</sup> We cannot let the PRC become the next hub for scientific research, but this Administration’s cuts all help pave a path to Beijing’s dreams of scientific leadership becoming a reality. Last year, the PRC increased their investments in science and technology by ten percent, equivalent to roughly \$51.5 billion USD.<sup>12</sup> Last month, the Chinese Communist Party issued recommendations ahead of their 15<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Plan and underscored that becoming a global science power is a top priority. They listed investments in education, research and development, and talent acquisition as foundational policies to achieve that goal.<sup>13</sup>

Make no mistake: the CCP is systematically embedding AI education throughout its school system as part of a national strategy to train the next generation of scientific and technological leaders. Under Education Minister Huai Jinpeng, the PRC government, often in coordination with domestic tech companies, has rolled out multiple plans to integrate AI into curricula, teacher training, and classroom instruction nationwide.<sup>14</sup> As the CCP moves aggressively to build an AI-literate talent pipeline from an early age, the dismantling of the Department of Education and offices like the Office of Educational Technology puts the United States at a strategic disadvantage in preparing our future workforce.

Dismantling our vocational education programs makes even less sense when the PRC is doubling down on vocational educational funding. Since 2023, China has allocated roughly \$10

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<sup>9</sup> Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng. “Huai Jinpeng delivers keynote speech at 2025 WDEC.” *Ministry of Education*. May 15, 2025.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/features/2025WorldDigitalEducationConference/News/202505/t20250516\\_1190888.htm](http://en.moe.gov.cn/features/2025WorldDigitalEducationConference/News/202505/t20250516_1190888.htm); Viola Zhou. “AI is reshaping childhood in China.” *Rest of World*. October 1, 2025.

<https://restofworld.org/2025/ai-china-childhood/>

<sup>10</sup> Anna Merod, “Will end to federal Office of Ed Tech mean an end to equity?” *K-12 Dive*, April 11, 2025,

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/office-ed-tech-closure-impact-schools/745010/>.

<sup>11</sup> Simone McCarthy, Joyce Jiang, and Yong Xiong, “In the race to attract the world’s smartest minds, China is gaining on the US,” *CNN World*, last modified September 29, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/29/china/china-reverse-brain-drain-science-tech-competition-us-intl-hnk>.

<sup>12</sup> Dannie Peng, “China makes science and tech a budget priority with 10% jump in spending during ‘two sessions.’” *South China Morning Post*. March 6, 2024, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3254290/china-makes-science-and-tech-budget-priority-10-jump-spending>.

<sup>13</sup> “Suggestions of the CPC Central Committee on Formulating the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development,” *Xinhua News Agency*, October 28, 2025,

<http://www.news.cn/20251028/337438370029449296539148a206bdd1/c.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Emma Burleigh. “China’s six-year-olds are already being offered AI classes in school in a bid to train the next generation of DeepSeek founders.” *Fortune*. <https://fortune.com/2025/03/10/china-school-children-ai-deepseek-liang-wengfeng-estonia-uk-america-south-korea/>. March 10, 2025.; Irene Zheng and Lily Ottinger. “AI Education: Understanding the Hype.” *ChinaTalk*. August 1, 2025. <https://www.chinatalk.media/p/chinas-ai-education-strategy>



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billion dollars to bolster vocational education programs and services, helping to train the next generation of technicians for the factory lines of the future.<sup>15</sup> As the U.S. retreats, the CCP is expanding their model of vocational teaching abroad. Xi Jinping announced that China would stand up 10 more “Luoban” workshops for training vocational workers in foreign countries.<sup>16</sup> Under the nose of the U.S., the PRC has expanded these programs across Europe, Asia, and Africa with over 30 training workshops and over 30,000 individuals trained as of 2024.<sup>17</sup>

As the PRC strengthens its central education institutions to build an AI-ready, technically skilled workforce aligned with long-term industrial strategy, the United States is moving in the opposite direction. Eliminating the Office of Educational Technology, hollowing out the Institute of Education Sciences and the National Center for Education Statistics, and disrupting the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education fractures the federal government’s ability to guide innovation, generate evidence, and sustain workforce pipelines. Taken together, these actions amount to a de facto dismantling of the Department of Education that weakens coordination, sidesteps congressional intent, and undermines national competitiveness. At a time when the CCP is investing heavily in education, data, and technical training, these cuts put America’s ability to compete in STEM, artificial intelligence, and innovation at risk.

Accordingly, I request answers to the following questions by January 5th:

1. Considering recent and forthcoming cuts, including the dismantling of the Office of Educational Technology, does the Department of Education have a plan to attempt to mitigate the grave impacts on American schools’ ability to deploy AI and related tools that help prepare the next generation of workers?
2. How many Americans will be unable to receive vocational training and upskilling due to the massive disruptions to the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, and has your Department consulted with any other agency or solicited any public feedback regarding the impact of these cuts on our national security?
3. Given the PRC’s increasing investments in AI, STEM education, and vocational education, has the Department evaluated the impact of dismantling key federal education offices on America’s long-term competitiveness?

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<sup>15</sup> Ministry of Education. “现代职业教育质量提升计划资金 2023 年度绩效自评报告.” February 13, 2025. [http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A05/gongzuo/jfgl/202502/t20250213\\_1179020.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/s78/A05/gongzuo/jfgl/202502/t20250213_1179020.html).

<sup>16</sup> Alice Li. “China’s Xi Jinping wants more Luban Workshops worldwide – but what are they?”. *South China Morning Post*. September 2, 2025. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/global-economy/article/3324058/chinas-xi-jinping-wants-more-luban-workshops-worldwide-what-are-they>

<sup>17</sup> Alice Li. “China’s Xi Jinping wants more Luban Workshops worldwide – but what are they?”. *South China Morning Post*. September 2, 2025. <https://www.scmp.com/economy/global-economy/article/3324058/chinas-xi-jinping-wants-more-luban-workshops-worldwide-what-are-they>



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raja Krishnamoorthi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raja" being more prominent.

Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Ranking Member  
House Select Committee on the CCP