



January 9, 2026

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

Kimberly Richey
Assistant Secretary, Office for Civil Rights
Acting Assistant Secretary, OSERS
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary McMahon and Assistant Secretary Richey,

On behalf of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Education Task Force (CCD) and the organizations which we each represent, we are writing to thank you for the opportunity to meet on December 17, 2025 to discuss the educational needs and access opportunities for 9.5 million students with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

In follow-up, we wanted to thank you for agreeing to meet with us on a regular basis. We are actively working with your team to schedule quarterly meetings in 2026 and look forward to those discussions. We also appreciated your comments regarding the need for Congressional action to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Given our shared consensus on the need for significantly increased IDEA funding, we urge you to take every opportunity available to recommend and communicate with Congress about the importance of fully funding IDEA. As Secretary, you have the unique ability to recommend during final negotiations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and the pending FY 2027 budgeting process—in writing, through testimony, and in meetings with legislators—that Congress must fund all parts of IDEA, including IDEA Part B at \$16.661 billion. This funding level places IDEA Part B on a glide path to full funding, as recommended in the *IDEA Full Funding Act (H.R. 2598/S.1277)*, supported by 149 House members, including 10 Republicans. To further support IDEA, we also request that you work with us to secure the support and cosponsorship of Senate Republican lawmakers for the *IDEA Full Funding Act*, ensuring Congress can achieve this important funding milestone.

Finally, we hope to continue to engage in meaningful discussions regarding our community's ongoing opposition to and pressing concerns with the Department's recent actions, that are pending judicial review, to eliminate, reduce, alter, transfer, or otherwise shift the responsibilities required of the Secretary of Education. This includes shifting or reducing Congressionally appropriated funds for IDEA, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Higher Education Act, Carl D. Perkins Act, and/or the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), which, since 2004, have been intentionally aligned to support educational opportunity and access for students with disabilities. We encourage you to take our significant concerns into consideration as you deliberate and

promote proposals that, to date, have not factored in the serious negative impacts on 9.5 million children and youth with disabilities, their families, and their educators.

We deeply respect and support the roles and responsibilities of the Secretary of Education as specified in each federal education law. Given this and the need for ongoing dialogue, we hope to continue discussing these matters in the coming weeks and look forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Joseph Joyce, CEO
Autism Society



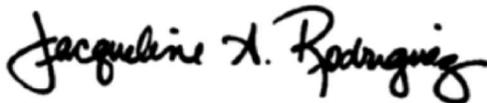
Chad Rummel, Executive Director
Council for Exceptional Children



Jennifer Coco, Interim Executive Director
Center for Learner Equity



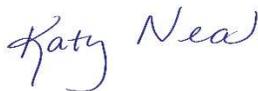
Denise Marshall, CEO
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates



Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO
National Center for Learning Disabilities



Stephanie Smith Lee, Sr. Policy Advisor
National Down Syndrome Congress



Katy Neas, CEO
The Arc of the United States