



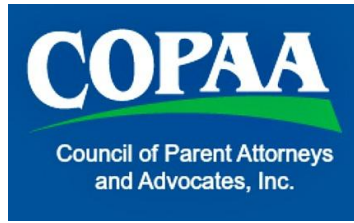
The Center for
Learner Equity



National
Center for
Learning
Disabilities



NATIONAL
DOWN SYNDROME
CONGRESS



Council for
Exceptional
Children

Amplification Toolkit: November 4th Town Hall

Protect Children with Disabilities, Protect IDEA

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For Parents and Advocates

What's Inside

The below resources can help elevate your voice to decisionmakers following the “Protect Children with Disabilities, Protect IDEA” Town Hall on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Feel free to use the resources as they are or personalize them to fully reflect your perspective.

Three Actions You Can Take

1. *Communicate with Congress and the White House*

Asks for Your Senators and Representatives

Email or call your Senators and/or Representative and tell them to:

- Conduct oversight hearings in the Senate and House
- Influence the Department of Education (ED) to reverse the layoffs
- Instruct ED that IDEA may not be moved to the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) or another agency

Congress Sample Email/Phone Call

Visit www.house.gov or www.senate.gov and enter your zip code into the “Find” box. Choose the email or phone number to use for your Senators/Representative, and send a message along these lines:

Sample Message

Dear Senator/Representative:

I am a constituent from [City/Town]. I am a [parent/educator/advocate].

The Administration has just gutted the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), the Department of Education office responsible for enforcing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is the federal law that ensures millions of students with disabilities receive the services and support they need to succeed in school. The Administration has also stated that it intends to move IDEA programs to the Department of Health and Human Services, despite the fact that the authority to do so resides solely with Congress. Both actions threaten the education of millions of children with disabilities by preventing full implementation of the law.

I am writing/calling to request an oversight hearing in the:

- *Senators:* Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
- *Representative:* House Education and Workforce Committee

Please take swift action to support an oversight hearing as soon as possible.

Sincerely, [sign or restate your name on the call]

Prepared Alerts

You may also use one of the prepared alerts linked below:

- Council for Exceptional Children: [Restore the Office of Special Education](#)
- Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates:
 - [Congress: Conduct Oversight Hearings to Protect Children with Disabilities & Protect IDEA](#)
 - [Protect Children with Disabilities & IDEA](#)
 - [Say No to Dismantling the Department of Education](#)
- National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD): [Restore Key Offices at the U.S. Department of Education](#)
- National Down Syndrome Congress: [Don't Turn Back the Clock on Educational Rights](#)
- The Arc of the United States: [Take Action: Cuts to Special Education Protections Are Happening NOW](#)

White House Sample Email

Email the White House to convey concerns about massive layoffs that impact the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services through the form: www.whitehouse.gov/contact. Ask the President to #ProtectChildrenWithDisabilities by restoring the Office of Special Education Programs staff who protect students' rights and make sure states follow special education law, as well as the other Department of Education offices that focus on students with disabilities. You can also tag the White House on social media @whitehouse with this message.

2. Communicate With Your Governor or State Attorney General

Email your Governor or State Attorney General and tell them to protect children with disabilities and enforce all of IDEA. Urge them to issue statement(s) in full support of IDEA and the rights of children with disabilities.

Sample Email

- Search for your state's Governor and/or Attorney General website.
- Navigate to the "Contact Us" or "Email Us" section. The email address is often found on a contact page, and some states also provide general inquiry addresses or specific emails for different departments.

Sample Message

Dear Governor/Attorney General:

I am a constituent from [City/Town]. I am a [parent/educator/advocate].

Recent actions taken by the Administration threaten the rights, opportunities and educational access for children with disabilities ages 0-21 who receive services and support they need to succeed in school under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

I am writing to urge you to issue a statement showing full support for every child with a disability who receives early intervention, support, services and vocational rehabilitation under IDEA. All schools in our state must meet their obligations under federal law for eligible children and their families.

Sincerely, [sign or restate your name on the call]

3. *File a Complaint with the Office for Civil Rights*

When a child with a disability is experiencing discrimination at school, know that:

Discrimination against persons with disabilities is prohibited by *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and *Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990* (Title II prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities, whether or not they receive federal financial assistance). This includes discrimination against individuals currently without an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity, but who have a record of or are regarded as having a disability.

Please note: Anyone may file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. We do not want parents/advocates to avoid filing complaints due to OCR layoffs. We must be vigilant in filing if/when discrimination occurs.

Learn more and file an OCR Complaint online [here](https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/civil-rights-laws/file-complaint/how-file-discrimination-complaint-ocr). (URL: <https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/civil-rights-laws/file-complaint/how-file-discrimination-complaint-ocr>).

For Partner Organizations

What's Inside

The below resources can be used as a suggested starting point for amplifying your organization's involvement with the "Protect Children with Disabilities, Protect IDEA" Town Hall on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Feel free to use the resources as they are or update them to fully reflect the mission, vision, and voice of your organization.

Email to activate your network

[FIRST NAME],

[THE NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] is proud to have joined disability allies, advocates, parents, and educators in a grassroots [Virtual Town Hall](#) to protect children with disabilities and protect IDEA.

The event leveraged our collective voice to raise awareness and mobilize communities to help protect the 8+ million children with disabilities and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Speakers shared insights about recent events and discussed actions you can take:

1. Call on Congress to:

- a. Conduct oversight hearings in the Senate and House regarding the U.S. Department of Education's (ED's) recent layoffs
- b. Influence ED to reverse the layoffs
- c. Instruct ED that IDEA may not be moved to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another federal agency

2. Urge your Governor and/or Attorney General's offices to protect IDEA and ensure schools meet all their obligations under these laws

3. File OCR Complaints when a child is experiencing discrimination at school

Please see this [digital toolkit](#) for sample language you can use to take action.

In solidarity,
[NAME]

Newsletter Blurb

FOLLOWING THE VIRTUAL TOWN HALL:

In light of recent events at the U.S. Department of Education and actions that threaten the IDEA and the rights of more than 8 million children with disabilities, **[Insert organization name]** proudly joined disability allies, advocates, parents, and educators for a grassroots virtual Town Hall on November 4, 2025.

Together, we discussed ways to use our collective voice to urge the Administration and Congress to support the more than 8 million children with disabilities and protect the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

You can watch the Town Hall **[insert recording of the event]** .LINK: <https://youtu.be/IU18odnhesY>

Social Media Posts

Channel	Content	Copy
LinkedIn / Facebook	Urging Action in Congress	<p>The rights of children with disabilities are under threat — jeopardizing decades of progress.</p> <p>Call or email your elected officials to tell them to stand up for the rights and protections for students with disabilities – and demand that the Senate and House conduct an oversight hearing about threats to special education. [LINK to a Prepared Action Alert above]</p> <p>#DontTurnBackTheClock #ProtectIDEA #ProtectChildrenwithDisabilities</p>
X	Urging Action in Congress	<p>The rights of children with disabilities are under threat.</p> <p>Watch a National Town Hall where parents, educators & advocates discussed actions you can take to protect children with disabilities.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/IU18odnhesY</p>
LinkedIn / Facebook	Urging Action in the White House	<p>The Administration’s recent actions will cause significant harm to children with disabilities, putting millions of students at risk.</p> <p>The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Education and Workforce Committee must hold oversight hearings as soon as possible. And Congress must insist that the @whitehouse reverse layoffs at the U.S. Department of Education that will destabilize support for more than 8 million students with disabilities including those receiving vocational rehabilitation services. [LINK to a Prepared Action Alert above]</p> <p>#DontTurnBackTheClock #ProtectIDEA #ProtectChildrenwithDisabilities</p>
X	Urging Action in the White House	<p>The Administration’s recent actions will harm children with disabilities.</p> <p>Congress must insist that the @whitehouse reverse layoffs at the Depart of Ed that will destabilize support for more than 8</p>

		million students with disabilities. [LINK to a Prepared Action Alert above]
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Suggested Hashtags

- #ProtectChildrenwithDisabilities
- #ProtectIDEA
- #DontTurnBackTheClock

Learn More About the Impact of ED Layoffs

- [Why Protecting IDEA and the U.S. Department of Education is Essential for Students with Disabilities](#), NDSC
- [Frequently Asked Questions: What's Happening at the Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\) and What It Means for Students with Disabilities](#), NDSC
- [Executive Action and the U.S. Department of Education—Its Role in IDEA and How Dismantling ED Harms Students with Disabilities](#), COPAA
- [Federal Authority Over Education Laws and Funding—A Summary of the Executive Branch and Legislative Branch](#), COPAA