

From: [Makin, Pender](#)
To: [Forster, Sarah](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: eo 1/29
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:20:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-ptu3irmh.png](#)

Thanks!

Pender Makin
Commissioner

Maine Department of Education

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From: Forster, Sarah <Sarah.Forster@maine.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 2:16 PM

To: Makin, Pender <Pender.Makin@maine.gov>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: eo 1/29

The legal assessment at the end is correct, this EO changes nothing for Maine schools. For what it's worth, I would eliminate a few of the paragraphs to go straight to the core – they are going to try to tie federal funding to teaching what they want taught, which as we know (and California has already boldly articulated) is going to be difficult, particularly in the case of ESEA and IDEA, since both explicitly leave curriculum and what constitutes a public education up to the States.

From: Makin, Pender <Pender.Makin@maine.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 1:51 PM

To: Forster, Sarah <Sarah.Forster@maine.gov>; [REDACTED]

Subject: eo 1/29

On January 29, President Trump issued a new executive order "Ending Radical Indoctrination". The purpose as defined in Section 1 of the order aims to prohibit K-12

education providers who receive Federal funding from teaching "anti-American, subversive, harmful, and false ideologies" and to require the teaching of "patriotic admiration for our incredible Nation and the values for which we stand".

~~The executive order reinterprets Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Title IX related to discrimination based on sex, introducing what the administration calls "Discriminatory equity ideology" wherein an individual by virtue of ... race, color, sex, or national origin receives "adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity, or inclusion".~~

~~The executive order also defines "Patriotic education" as "a presentation of the history of America grounded in: "an accurate, honest, unifying, inspiring, and ennobling characterizations of America's founding and foundational principles; a clear examination of how the United States has admirably grown closer to its noble principles throughout its history..."~~

Actions invoked by this executive order include the requirement that the Federal Secretaries of Education, Defense, Health and Human Services provide an "ending indoctrination strategy" to the president that includes a plan for eliminating federal funding or support for indoctrination based on gender ideology or discriminatory equity ideology in k-12 curriculum or in k-12 teacher education and certification. The strategies developed by the Federal agencies are required to include plans to rescind funding that directly or indirectly supports the practices described above to the maximum extent allowed by current law.

~~The executive order further reestablishes the 1776 Commission to promote "patriotic education". The commission will include 20 unpaid presidential appointees who will ensure that requirements related to patriotic education are enforced:~~

Presently, there are no provisions in this executive order that overturn Maine laws as enacted by our Legislature in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Maine. The executive order also does not override locally adopted school board policies, including those related to nondiscrimination and locally adopted curricula. Therefore, Maine schools should continue to follow the laws of our state and the provisions within their local policies.

Commissioner

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