

Maine Department of Education
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From: Makin, Pender <Pender.Makin@maine.gov>

Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 1:17 PM

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

Cc: DOE ALL DYN <DOEALLDyn@maine.gov>

Subject: Messaging on Jan 29th EO

Dear DOE Team,

We will be sending another notice to the field to help clarify the recent executive order from President Trump related to "indoctrination". I'm aware that many of you who interact with folks in the field may be receiving outreach and requests for information related to the executive orders, memos, and non-binding guidance letters, as there have been many released in a very short time span. There continues to be significant confusion, due to some of the phrasing in the documents and due to the various interpretations by the media and others, so we are working hard to provide up-to-date information and clarity where that is possible. The memo from earlier this week that threatened a pause on federal funding streams was rescinded on Wednesday. Later, a White House spokesperson announced that the Executive Order on pausing federal funding was still in effect. The leadership team will continue to monitor this evolving situation and will update you as we learn more. In the meantime, if any of your federal grant systems appear to be stalled, please let me know immediately.

We plan to release the following statement as a priority notice to superintendents and school leaders related to the "indoctrination" executive order:

"On January 29, the President issued an Executive Order, "Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling". The purpose, as defined in Section 1 of the Order, is to prohibit K-12 education providers who receive Federal funding from teaching what the Order refers to as "anti-American, subversive, harmful, and false ideologies" and to require the teaching

of "patriotic admiration for our incredible Nation".

The Executive Order requires that within 90 days, the Federal Secretaries of Education, Defense, and Health and Human Services provide a strategy to the President that includes a plan to eliminate Federal funding or support for "gender ideology and discriminatory equity ideology" in K-12 curriculum or in K-12 teacher education and certification.

The Executive Order does not alter the obligations of schools under state law, including the Maine Human Rights Act, and does not require any immediate changes to locally-adopted school board policies. However, school administrators should continue to monitor implementation of the Executive Order – including the strategies issued by the Secretaries of Education, Defense, and Health and Human Services – to assess potential impacts on federal funding.

As this is a dynamic situation, the Maine Department of Education (DOE) will continue to monitor the situation and will do our best to clarify wherever possible. Thank you, as always, for your leadership."

Thank you, DOE team, for all you do. Enjoy the weekend and take care of yourselves and others,

Pender

Pender Makin

Commissioner

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