



IMPORTANT EASMC UPDATE

March 2025



How Dismantling the U.S. Department of Education Would Put Our Students at Risk

No matter our race, background, or ZIP code, we believe our local public schools should inspire imagination, cultivate curiosity and critical thinking, and ensure our children can live fulfilling lives. Yet, anti-public education politicians are set on denying the resources all students deserve. So, we're educating ourselves to protect our students and public education.

While President Donald Trump's plans to dismantle the Department of Education (ED) via executive order requires Congressional action, educators and parents should be concerned. Protecting public education and the critical programs students rely on requires us to pressure Congress into 1) protecting the Department, or 2) preventing actions such as moving critical offices of the Department to other agencies, blocking Title I or IDEA funds to states, peeling off funds from these programs to support private school vouchers, or cutting/eliminating funding for federal grant programs.

The Department of Education, at its core, is a civil rights agency. As some education experts have put it, "[The Department of Education] serves as the only guardrail protecting schools and students in states that appear hellbent on destroying their public schools and every equity initiative that most Americans stand for and support." Trump's expected executive order attacks our ability to ensure all students have equal opportunity and access to education by ending diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility practices and programs.

The importance of protecting this department is two-fold:

1. Keeping critical offices like the Office for Civil Rights from being shipped to the Justice Department which will not protect the most vulnerable students, and
 2. Preventing states and school districts from being forced to make up the difference from lost federal funding which increases taxes in local communities and states.
- **If politicians dismantle ED or slash public education funding: 7.5 million students** with disabilities and their families will lose the support they need at school and at home.
 - Moving enforcement of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act to the Department of Health and Human Services would endanger oversight, enforcement, and accountability.
 - An attempt to block grant the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) would cut federal funding to states without protections and could eliminate IEPs that students and families depend on.
 - Attempts to “voucherize” IDEA funds would result in funds being taken from public schools and given to private schools.
 - **12 million students** across the country will lose access to career and technical education programs necessary to prepare them for the jobs of the future.
 - **Nearly 420,000** teacher and support staff jobs will be lost, meaning larger class sizes, with students will receive less one-on-one attention they deserve.
 - Fewer options and opportunities for **10 million students** and their families who rely on Pell Grants and federal student loans for college, resulting in increasing college costs for working-class families.
 - **26 million students** — especially those living in low-income homes — will lose vital education programs that help them reach their full potential.

Even without Congress’ support for the executive order, the Trump administration will attempt to hollow out the agency through staff firings and buyouts. This would eviscerate the ability to enforce protections for students, especially for students with disabilities, and ensure services and rights are consistent across states. These protections should not be left to chance based on where you live.

Our students need more opportunities to succeed, and we need to strengthen, not dismantle, our public schools where **90 percent** of this country’s students—and **95 percent** of students with disabilities—learn.



EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

WALK IN WITH US MARCH 19



EDUCATION IS NOT JUST A SYSTEM, IT'S A RIGHT!

Stand united with educators, students, parents and community allies
across the nation to protest the reckless dismantling of the U.S.
Department of Education

MARCH 19
EVERY SMCPs SCHOOL AND WORK SITE
30-45 MINUTES BEFORE SCHOOL

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR
MORNING START TIMES



We will fight for public education.
We will protect our schools.
We will not back down.



See start times on next page...

WALK IN WITH US ON MARCH 19!

| Site | Walk-in Start Time | Walk-in End Time |
|--------|--------------------|------------------|
| BBES | 8:00 - 8:15 | 8:45 |
| CHS | 7:00 - 7:15 | 7:45 |
| CPCS | 7:30 - 7:45 | 8:00 |
| CWFDES | 7:40 - 7:55 | 8:10 |
| DES | 7:45 - 8:00 | 8:30 |
| EES | 7:45 - 8:00 | 8:30 |
| EMS | 6:15 - 6:30 | 7:00 |
| FCTC | 7:00 - 7:15 | 7:45 |
| GHES | 7:45 - 8:00 | 8:30 |
| GKES | 7:00 - 7:15 | 7:45 |
| GMHS | 6:55 - 7:10 | 7:40 |
| GWCES | 7:00 - 7:15 | 7:45 |
| HES | 7:30 - 7:45 | 8:15 |
| LES | 7:50 - 8:05 | 8:35 |
| LHS | 7:00 - 7:15 | 7:45 |
| LMS | 6:15 - 6:30 | 7:00 |
| LMDES | 8:00 - 8:15 | 8:45 |
| LPES | 7:35 - 7:50 | 8:20 |
| MES | 7:45 - 8:00 | 8:30 |
| MBMS | 6:40 - 6:55 | 7:25 |
| OES | 8:00 - 8:15 | 8:45 |
| PHES | 7:30 - 7:45 | 8:15 |
| PPES | 8:00 - 8:15 | 8:45 |
| RES | 8:00 - 8:15 | 8:45 |
| SRMS | 6:15 - 6:30 | 7:00 |
| TCES | 7:45 - 8:00 | 8:30 |
| VA | 7:00 - 7:15 | 7:45 |
| WMES | 8:00 - 8:15 | 8:45 |

TENURED RESIGNATIONS

If you were tenured as of the beginning of this 2024-2025 school year, then you are obligated to give notice by July 15 that you will not be returning next year. As of July 16, 2025, teachers with tenure (based on the 2024-2025 school year) are officially considered to be under contract for the 2025-2026 school year. If leaving the school system with tenure, then you must disclose that to SMCPs by **July 15, 2025**. As a tenured teacher, SMCPs cannot simply give notice that your annual contract is not being renewed; it must pursue a termination with cause, which is an entire process dictated by both the negotiated agreement and COMAR.



NON-TENURED RESIGNATIONS

If you are a teacher who does not plan to return to SMCPs next year, and you were not tenured as of the beginning of this 2024-2025 school year, then you are obligated to give notice by **May 1, 2025** that you will not be returning next year. If you plan to not return, the expectation is that you finish out the remainder of this school year. As of May 2, 2025, teachers without tenure (based on the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year) are officially considered to be under contract for the 2025-2026 school year. If leaving the school system without tenure, then you should have disclosed that to SMCPs by May 1. Likewise, if SMCPs is not renewing your contract, then your principal or an HR designee must disclose that to you in writing before May 1.

PRAXIS TUTORS

Open to ALL members! Do you need any support with the Praxis? Would you like to have one-on-one support? Well, look no more!

MSEA processes individuals daily and finds tutors to work directly with members. Once your tutoring request is submitted, an email is sent out to the member to collect more information that aids in pairing individuals with the right tutor.

For the PRAXIS tutor request form, email spenrod@mseanea.org.

RA ATTENDANCE 3.11.25

These sites had representation at our February Representative Assembly. Ask your building rep. for an update!

CPCS
CHS
DSS
JAFCTC
DES
GMHS

GHEs
LES
LMS
LMDES
MBMS
MES

PPES
SRMS
TCES
VA
WMES
Retirees

Leonardtown Offices



EASMC Association Rep. Training

SATURDAY | APRIL 5 | 9 AM - 4 PM
2025

For current and aspiring association representatives
Advance and refresh critical advocacy skills and contract knowledge
Build your member capacity and level up engagement
No experience needed - all are welcome!

EASMC OFFICE

41680 Miss Bessie Dr., Suite 201, Leonardtown



RSVP BY: MARCH 29

Register at the link below.

WHO CAN HELP?

Tel. (240) 309-4196

Sarah Penrod, EASMC President, spenrod@mseanea.org

Systemic Issues, Negotiated Agreement Questions, Rep. Assembly, Board of Directors, Committees, Public Relations, Policies, Program and Strategic Plan

Dawn Pipkin, MSEA UniServ Director, dpipkin@mseanea.org

Negotiated Agreement Concerns, Staff Rights & Responsibilities, Discipline & Performance, Teacher Resignation, Allegations, Member Advocacy, Grievances

Jennifer Waybright, EASMC Office Manager, jwaybright@mseanea.org

Dues, Membership, Communications, Web Site, Rosters, Calendar, Resources, Site Rep. Accreditation & Changes



SPRING CLOSET CLEANOUT

It's time for spring cleaning here at the EASMC office! All EASMC members are welcome to stop by our "Swag Store" and purchase promotional items at a reduced cost. We will also have gently used items for FREE! First come, first served. Cash only.

WED, MARCH 19
THURS, MARCH 20 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM



41680 Miss Bessie Dr., Suite 201
Leonardtwn, MD 20650

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION