

## President Trump's Executive Orders Impacting Higher Education

*Note: This is not an exhaustive list but includes executive orders (EOs) relevant to higher education. The list will be updated regularly.*

### EOs Related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

#### [Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity](#) (01/21/25)

The EO directs all federal agencies to end DEI preferences, mandates, policies, programs, and activities. It revokes executive order 11246, which has required federal contractors to have affirmative action plans since 1965. The EO directs the Attorney General and Secretary of Education to issue guidance to state and local educational agencies and institutions of higher education that receive federal funds or participate in the Title IV federal student loan assistance program on “the measures and practices required to comply with *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*.” The order also mandates investigations of institutions with endowments of at least \$1 billion.

#### [Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing](#) (01/20/25)

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, assisted by the Attorney General and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, must end all discriminatory programs, including DEI and “diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility” (DEIA) mandates, policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the federal government, under whatever name they appear, including those related to “environmental justice.”

#### [Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#) (01/20/25)

This broad EO rescinds 78 EOs from the Biden administration, including those aimed at increasing equity and economic opportunity for underrepresented students, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The order also pulls back EO 14124 (2024), which established a White House initiative to increase educational access through HSIs. That initiative supported HSIs in building educational capacity, improving student economic mobility, and enhancing federal recruitment efforts on their campuses.

*Note, this EO is also referenced below in other categories*

### EOs Impacting Higher Education and Immigration

#### [Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#) (01/20/25)

This order authorizes increased vetting and screening for individuals seeking admission to the United States and already in the country. It also directs agencies to enhance vetting for individuals from countries with identified security risks and to monitor individuals already in the United States to ensure they “do not bear hostile attitudes toward its citizens, culture, government, institutions, or founding principles, and do not advocate for, aid, or support designated foreign terrorists and other threats to our national security.”

#### [America First Policy Directive to the Secretary of State](#) (01/20/25)

The order directs the Secretary of State to “issue guidance bringing the Department of State’s policies, programs, personnel, and operations in line with an America First foreign policy, which puts America and its interests first.” It could impact programs funded by the State Department, including educational exchanges and international partnerships.

### Protecting the American People Against Invasion (01/20/25)

This order directs executive departments and agencies to enforce deportation orders, and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to expedite the removal of individuals not lawfully admitted or paroled into the country. The order also establishes Federal Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTFs), limits funding to sanctuary jurisdictions, and restricts public benefits for undocumented individuals.

## EOs Impacting Title IX

### Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government (01/20/25)

This order recognizes two sexes, male and female, and directs agencies to use "sex" instead of "gender" in federal policies and documents. The order also directs the U.S. Education Department to rescind several pieces of guidance, including a 2021 memo that interpreted Title IX protections to cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

## EOs Impacting Sustainability

### Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions (01/20/25)

The order revokes several Biden EOs related to higher education's role in combatting climate change. It disbands the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, the Justice40 Initiative, and other HBCU- and MSI-related environmental justice programs.



