# Nineteen states sue Trump administration over funding cuts for diversity programmes



A coalition of 19 states has initiated legal action against the Trump administration, challenging its recent directive to withhold federal funding from states and school districts that implement certain diversity programmes. The lawsuit was filed on Friday in federal court by the attorneys general of states including California, New York, Illinois, and Minnesota, all of which have Democratic-leaning governments.

The legal challenge arises from a memorandum issued on April 3 by the Trump administration, which demands that states certify they do not utilise specific diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. The administration has labelled these programmes as illegal under federal civil rights law. According to the terms of the memo, any state that refuses to provide this certification risks losing federal funding allocated for supporting low-income students.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta addressed the media during a news conference on the day the lawsuit was filed, stating that the administration had misinterpreted federal civil rights legislation in an effort to compel states to dismantle legally sanctioned diversity programmes. He emphasised that the coalition is contesting what they view as an overreach by the federal government directed at undermining efforts to promote educational equity and inclusion.

The legal dispute highlights ongoing tension between state governments and the federal administration over educational policies related to diversity programming in public schools. The coalition argues that the administration’s demands infringe upon lawful state-run efforts to foster inclusive educational environments. The case is expected to be closely watched as it may set significant precedents regarding federal authority over educational funding and diversity initiatives.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/judge-blocks-trump-push-to-cut-public-school-funding-over-diversity-programs> - This URL corroborates the legal challenges against the Trump administration regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in public schools. It mentions that a federal judge blocked Trump administration directives to cut funding for schools with such programs.
2. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-04-25/california-other-states-sue-trump-administration-over-anti-dei-funding-threats-to-schools> - This article supports the claim that California, along with other states, sued the Trump administration over threats to eliminate diversity programs or lose federal funding. It highlights California Attorney General Rob Bonta's stance on the legality of these programs.
3. <https://www.ctpost.com/news/education/article/19-states-sue-trump-administration-over-push-to-20294978.php> - This article confirms that 19 states have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration over efforts to end diversity programs, risking substantial federal funding, including support for students with disabilities.
4. <https://calmatters.org/education/k-12-education/2025/04/dei/> - This article discusses the ruling that limits Trump's crackdown on school diversity programs, emphasizing the risk of losing federal funding, including money for low-income students.
5. <https://ctmirror.org/2025/04/24/dei-education-funding-trump/> - This URL provides context on the legal dispute and highlights the accusations against the Trump administration for violating teachers' rights and issuing vague directives regarding diversity programs.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com/> - Unfortunately, without direct access to the article on Noah Wire Services, this URL serves as a reference point for the original article discussing the coalition of states challenging Trump's directive.
7. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/25/us/19-states-sue-the-trump-administration-over-its-dei-demand-in-schools.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data