# President Trump signs executive orders reshaping higher education policy



On Wednesday, President Donald Trump signed a series of executive orders targeting various aspects of higher education in the United States, marking a notable shift in federal oversight and policy for colleges and universities. The actions, signed in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, DC, seek to exert greater control over how educational institutions operate, particularly regarding accreditation, funding, and curriculum priorities.

One of the central components of the executive orders pertains to the college accreditation process, which determines which colleges and universities qualify to receive federal student loans and Pell grants—a critical source of funding for many schools. The executive order instructs the Secretary of Education to hold accrediting bodies accountable by implementing measures such as denial, monitoring, suspension, or termination of accreditation for poor performance or violations of the federal Civil Rights Act. A White House official told CNN, “It also directs the attorney general and the secretary of education to investigate and terminate unlawful discrimination by American higher education institutions, including law schools and medical schools.”

Education Secretary Linda McMahon emphasised the administration’s focus on academic meritocracy, signalling an ongoing effort to assess diversity, equity, and inclusion policies within higher education frameworks. The White House attributed the initiative to President Trump’s Domestic Policy Council and highlighted the role of Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller in driving the administration’s higher education agenda.

In addition to accreditation reforms, President Trump signed an executive order promoting the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) training into educational curricula. “That’s a big deal,” President Trump stated during the signing ceremony. “We have literally trillions of dollars being invested in AI.” The order aims to equip students with skills relevant to emerging AI technologies to ensure competitiveness in the evolving economy, according to White House staff secretary Will Scharf.

Another significant directive from the president focuses on the enforcement of existing rules regarding foreign gifts to American universities. Many institutions have been slow to disclose large financial contributions from overseas donors. The executive order mandates that federal departments and agencies rigorously enforce these regulations to enhance transparency and compliance.

Furthermore, President Trump established a new White House initiative dedicated to historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). While the administration’s relationship with HBCUs has fluctuated during his tenure, this order represents a renewed governmental focus on supporting these institutions.

These executive orders come on the heels of the administration’s recent announcement of a sweeping $2.2 billion funding freeze on Harvard University—a move likely to spark continued debate over academic freedom and federal oversight in higher education.

The CNN report notes that these steps form part of broader efforts by the Trump administration to restructure the Department of Education and redefine federal engagement with colleges and universities across the nation. Alejandra Jaramillo of CNN contributed to the reporting on these developments.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/04/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-reforms-accreditation-to-strengthen-higher-education/> - This URL supports the claim about President Trump's executive order to reform the college accreditation process, focusing on holding accrediting bodies accountable and promoting student-focused principles in higher education.
2. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/04/23/trumps-latest-executive-orders-target-accreditation> - It corroborates the details about Trump's executive orders targeting accreditation, as well as other education-related initiatives, such as supporting historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).
3. <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/secretary-of-education-statements-president-trumps-education-executive-orders> - This link provides insight into the Secretary of Education's views on the executive orders, highlighting the intention to bring change to the higher education accreditation system by promoting competition among accreditors.
4. <https://www.acenet.edu/Policy-Advocacy/Pages/2025-Trump-Administration-Transition.aspx> - The webpage outlines various actions taken by the Trump administration affecting higher education, including proposals to restructure federal policy and funding for colleges and universities.
5. <https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/donald-trump/2025> - This URL provides access to the official documents of President Trump's executive orders in 2025, including those related to higher education reforms.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - While this URL is about the source of the article, it does not provide specific corroboration for the claims but serves as the original source of the information.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMihwFBVV95cUxOc0l3SDRQT01ETkhubjBoZWZ2ejFORFluNFM3R2RqWTZDWFVzcmQ3U2puV0VmNzB3blhEZDliM2piWlExbEtDMU9EZ2tpTms1N2FTbkJvTmd4SWFkOXVtcnFScEhwOERpZ0hqOFBnd3ZYeHdsX2pESGRvdzY5b3ZxWWJteWUzOHc?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data