



Scholars Speak Out About Administration's Dismissal of the National Science Board



The National Academy of Education (NAEd) has joined other scholarly societies in speaking out against Trump administration actions with the potential to impact a broad range of federally funded activities related to students, learning, and research.

Last week, the NAEd's Board of Directors issued a statement decrying the Trump administration's April 24th dismissal of the 24 members of the National Science Board, which has governed the National Science Foundation since its inception in 1950. To main a multipartisan panel, members are appointed by Presidents, on staggered schedules, to six-year terms.

They help the NSF determine a strategy for federal investments in scientific research, and they advise the President and Congress on matters related to science, engineering, and education. They also help allocate \$9 billion per year in funds for science research and education. The NSF has been without a Senate-confirmed director for the past year.

“[P]ublic confidence in science remains below its early-pandemic levels, and debates over scientific expertise have become increasingly polarized,” the NAEd Board of Directors stated.

At such a moment, the nation should be reinforcing, not weakening, the structures that protect independent scientific judgment. . . . We urge Congress and the administration to reaffirm the statutory role and preserve the integrity of the National Science Board and to act promptly to restore stable, independent leadership at NSF.

Just a month earlier, in [March](#), the Academy joined 28 other scholarly associations in criticizing the Government Services Administration's proposed changes to the requirements for applicants and recipients of federal funds. Those changes include—among other things—efforts to require federal funding recipients to stamp out diversity, equity, and/or inclusion efforts and services for undocumented immigrants. The [critique](#) contends that the changes violate current federal law and that the Administration lacks the authority to make them. It says the changes are “vague and overbroad,” “inconsistent with the Constitution and federal law,” confusing, and unaligned with current research.

“[T]he proposal could chill lawful education, research, mentoring, and workforce practices that help institutions foster inclusive learning and professional environments,” the NAEd [stated](#). The organization urged the government to “maintain the current certification framework, which already requires recipients to comply with the Constitution and applicable federal statutes, rather than proceed with changes that are unnecessary, confusing, and harmful to education and research institutions nationwide.”

Founded in 1965, The National Academy of Education helps advance research to improve teaching, learning, and education policy. Members are elected by peers on the basis of scholarly accomplishments. NEPC Fellow Alfredo J. Artiles of Stanford University serves as president.

NEPC Resources on Research Issues

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