



Education | Healthcare | Public Services

How Project 2025 and MAGA Republicans would impact access to higher education and harm higher education staff

Project 2025 calls for:ⁱ

- Eliminating the Department of Education (page 319).
- Attacking academic freedom and the freedom to learn (page 352).
- Weakening accreditation agencies and allowing for-profit and predatory institutions to defraud students (page 352).
- Ending affordable student loan repayment plans and student loan forgiveness (pages 322, 332).
- Eliminating the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program for workers who have dedicated their career to public service (page 354).
- Privatizing all student loans and eliminating federally backed student loans, which currently make up around 90 percent of student loans and offer protections to student borrowers (page 353).
- Incorrectly claiming that institutions of higher education “are hostile to free expression, open academic inquiry, and American exceptionalism” (page 320).
- Having the Department of Education work with Congress to amend the Higher Education Act to eliminate the negotiated rulemaking requirement, which allows for stakeholder input in higher education policy (pages 339-340).
- Restricting federal funding for universities to conduct research (page 355).

ⁱ For more on Project 2025, see <https://democracyforward.org/the-peoples-guide-to-project-2025> and <https://whatisproject2025.net/project-2025-mandate-for-leadership-pdf>

The AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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