

ACTION:

On Thursday, March 20, President Trump **signed** an **executive order** to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education “to the maximum extent appropriate and permitted by law.”

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Education currently manages programs that are critical to CSU students, including the federal student loan program, Pell Grants, and teacher preparation; and it enforces anti-discrimination laws in education.

POTENTIAL IMPACT:

Much of what will happen with these programs remains to be seen. At the signing, President Trump said that **Pell Grants** and certain funding for low-income or disadvantaged children and children with disabilities would be “preserved in full and redistributed to various other agencies and departments.” He also **has said** that the Treasury Department could handle student loans, and that the Department of Health and Human Services could administer funds for students with disabilities; but it is unclear if, when, or how a transition of those services to other departments would happen. President Trump has already cut half the staff from the department, including dramatic **cuts to federal education research** and to **its civil rights division**.

NEXT STEPS:

CSU teams in California and in Washington D.C. are continuing to watch these developments closely and work with legislators and other supporters to ensure that higher education opportunities remain accessible to all students.
