



March 21, 2025

To: VR Community

From: Keith Ozols, Director, Vocational Rehabilitation

Subject: VR update: Federal Executive Order affecting U.S. Department of Education

Dear VR Community,

Yesterday's news about a federal Executive Order to begin dismantling the U.S. Department of Education (ED) leaves a lot of questions about how the decision will impact Oregon's Vocational Rehabilitation program and the schools we partner with. The Executive Order does not apply to state VR staff positions.

About 79% of VR's funding is through a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, which is part of ED. Additionally, school districts receive federal funding to serve students with disabilities through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

ODHS is working with the Governor's Office and Oregon Department of Justice to carefully track related actions and understand the implications. I am committed to keeping you informed as we get clarification at the state and federal level.

For now, the employment services we provide to VR clients, and the Pre-Employment Transition Services we provide in partnership with schools do not change. We remain committed to helping people with all kinds of

disabilities find jobs that match their skills, interests and abilities. If changes are needed in the future, we will have a process in place to implement them and notify people who are affected.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at vr.directoroffice@odhs.oregon.gov. We also post updates on our [Community Engagement webpage](#).

With gratitude,



Keith Ozols

Director

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