Students’ Civil Rights Are Under Attack

Timeline of Civil Rights Attacks by Department of Education

- **January 17, 2017** – Betsy DeVos Confirmation Hearing
  - Secretary DeVos fails to recognize that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law that must be followed by all schools receiving federal dollars.
  - Secretary DeVos does not affirmatively state whether she believes that all schools receiving federal dollars should be held to the same standards of accountability – including protection from harassment or discrimination.

- **February 22, 2017** – Rescission of Title IX Guidance on Transgender Students
  - The Department of Education (ED) issues Dear Colleague letter notifying schools of the rescission of the May 2016 Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Students.

- **June 16, 2017** – Memo Leaked on Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Processing Manual
  - An internal memo was leaked on how OCR should be processing systemic complaints, ultimately limiting the scope of the Department and seeking quicker resolutions.

- **August 1, 2017** – Secretary DeVos Begins Issuing Final Approval for State ESSA Plans
  - As of now, 40 state ESSA plans have been approved, many of which violate core equity requirements of the law.

- **September 22, 2017** – Rescission of Title IX Guidance on Campus Sexual Misconduct
  - ED notifies schools of recession of the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence and the 2014 Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence.

- **October 26, 2017** – President Trump nominates Kenneth L. Marcus to be the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
  - President Trump nominates a highly controversial figure to oversee the Office of Civil Rights who is widely opposed by civil rights organizations and has not yet been confirmed in the Senate.

- **February 27, 2018** – ED Opens a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NRRM) on Significant Disproportionality
  - ED formally opened a NPRM to delay the implementation of the significant disproportionality regulation.

- **March 5, 2018** – OCR Amends Case Processing Manual
  - OCR began dismissing hundreds of cases those related to website accessibility.

- **March 12, 2018** – White House and ED Propose Federal Commission on School Safety
  - A White House Commission, chaired by Secretary DeVos, recommended a study of the repeal of the 2014 Discipline Policies by Obama Administration, which includes:
    - 2014 ED-DOJ School Discipline Guidance package
    - Guidance on the legal limitations on the use of restraint and seclusion in schools
    - The Equity in IDEA regulation on significant disproportionality
    - Guidance calling states to end corporal punishment
    - Guidance package on the inclusion of positive behavioral supports in Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) to promote inclusion and a free, appropriate public education for students with disabilities
    - Guidance on best practices and procedures for school resource officers
    - Resources for charter schools to promote a positive school culture