



U.S. Department of Education: Key Players, 2017

Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education

[Betsy DeVos](#) has been involved in education policy for nearly three decades. An advocate for school choice, vouchers, and charter schools, Secretary DeVos has previously served on the boards of Foundation for Excellence in Education, Alliance for School Choice, Acton Institute, and All Children Matter PAC. Most recently, and prior to her confirmation, DeVos served as chairperson of The Windquest Group, an enterprise and investment management firm. DeVos earned her B.A. from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI.

James Manning, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary and Acting Under Secretary

James Manning previously served as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Education Secretary in the George W. Bush administration and as the Chief Operating Office of Federal Student Aid in the Barack Obama administration. Manning has also previously served as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Prior to his new position, Manning served on President Trump's transition team.

Jason Botel, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

[Jason Botel](#) first joined the U.S Department of Education as the Senior White House Advisor for Education. Botel started his career teaching at Booker T. Washington Middle School in West Baltimore as a Teach For America corps member and went on to serve as founding principal and executive director of KIPP Baltimore. Most recently, he was the executive director of MarylandCAN. Botel holds a bachelor's and master's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in education administration and supervision from National-Louis University. Botel is now the parent of two public school students in Washington, DC.

Kathleen Smith, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education

Kathleen Smith is a former education staff member under Republican leadership on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions as well as the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Most recently, Kathleen was a Sr. Vice President at Access Group, Inc., a higher education financing company. Smith also served as Chief of Staff to the Acting Deputy Secretary for Policy, Planning and Innovation during the Obama administration. Smith holds a bachelor's degree from D'Youville College, a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Haven, and a master's in communication from American University.

Thomas Brock, Delegated Duties of Director, Institute of Education Sciences

[Thomas W. Brock](#) joined the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) in January 2013 as the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Research (NCER). On January 3, 2017, former U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. delegated the duties of IES director to Dr. Brock effective January 14, 2017. Over his career,

Dr. Brock has gained a national reputation in education research for conducting rigorous evaluations using mixed methods to understand and inform efforts to improve education and employment outcomes for low-income youth and adults. Dr. Brock holds a B.A. in anthropology from Pitzer College, a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in social welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Margo Anderson, Acting Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of Innovation and Improvement

[Margo Anderson](#) oversees the grant-making offices and operations functions, including those of the Executive Office. She is responsible for adherence to management excellence through financial integrity and program accountability. During her 23-year career with the U.S. Department of Education, she has managed a wide variety of grants programs and has been involved with management improvement initiatives. She has worked with demonstration programs in technology and character education, among others, and on such program initiatives as standards for reviewing and selecting applicants for grant funding. She has a bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College and a master's degree in management from George Washington University.

Venitia Richardson, Director of Teacher Quality Programs, Office of Innovation and Improvement

[Venitia Richardson](#) leads the Teacher Quality Programs division. Richardson oversees several discretionary grant programs that include Race to the Top – District, the Teacher Incentive Fund, School Leadership, Supporting Effective Educator Development, Teaching American History, and Teacher Quality Partnerships. Richardson has spent the last 16 years of her career serving the children and families of Hartford, CT, beginning as a graduate intern, a special education teacher, behavioral specialist, district inclusion facilitator, assistant director in the division office for student support services in central office, an assistant principal for a middle school, and a founding principal of Opportunity High School, a high school designed as part of the district's reform process. Richardson holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in educational psychology and a master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut and is a U.S. Air Force veteran.

Steven Menashi, Deputy General Counsel, Higher Education

Steven Menashi was an assistant law professor at George Mason University prior to his appointment as deputy general counsel. Specializing in constitutional, administrative, property, and international law, Menashi previously worked for New York University and Georgetown University and as a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Menashi also served as a law clerk to Justice Samuel Alito Jr. of the Supreme Court of the United States. Menashi received his law degree from Stanford Law School.

Jerry Falwell, Jr., Leader of “Higher Education Task Force”

Currently serving as President of Liberty University, Jerry Falwell Jr. claimed to be tasked with identifying opportunities for higher education reform and deregulation by the Trump Administration. Unconfirmed by the administration, it is unclear the extent to which Falwell's recommendations would be followed by the Department, if at all. There have been no public developments about the work and scope of the “Higher Education Task Force” since Falwell's announcement in late January 2017.

U.S. Congressional Committees and Key Subcommittees

U.S. House of Representatives

Education and the Workforce Committee

Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Chairwoman
Robert C. Scott (D-VA), Ranking Member

Republicans

Joe Wilson (SC)
Duncan Hunter (CA)
David P. Roe (TN)
Glenn Thompson (PA)
Tim Walberg (MI)
Brett Guthrie (KY)
Todd Rokita (IN)
Lou Barletta (PA)
Luke Messer (IN)
Bradley Byrne (AL)
David Brat (VA)
Glenn Grothman (WI)
Elise Stefanik (NY)
Rick Allen (GA)
Jason Lewis (MN)
Francis Rooney (FL)
Paul Mitchell (MI)
Tom Garrett, Jr. (VA)
Lloyd Smucker (PA)
A. Drew Ferguson, IV (GA)
Ron Estes (KS)
Vacancy

Democrats

Susan Davis (CA)
Raul Grijalva (AZ)
Joe Courtney (CT)
Marcia Fudge (OH)
Jared Polis (CO)
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (NMI)
Frederica Wilson (FL)
Suzanne Bonamici (OR)
Mark Takano (CA)
Alma Adams (NC)
Mark DeSaulnier (CA)
Donald Norcross (NJ)
Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE)
Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL)
Carol Shea-Porter (NH)
Adriano Espaillat (NY)

Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training

Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Chairman
Susan Davis (D-CA), Ranking Member

Republicans

Glenn Thompson (PA)
Lou Barletta (PA)
Luke Messer (IN)
Bradley Byrne (AL)
Glenn Grothman (WI)
Elise Stefanik (NY)
Rick Allen (GA)
Jason Lewis (MN)
Paul Mitchell (MI)
Tom Garrett, Jr. (VA)
Lloyd Smucker (PA)

Democrats

Joe Courtney (CT)
Alma Adams (NC)
Mark DeSaulnier (NC)
Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL)
Jared Polis (CO)
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (NMI)
Mark Takano (CA)
Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE)
Adriano Espaillat (NY)

Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

Todd Rokita (R-IN), Chairman
Jared Polis (D-CO), Ranking Member

Republicans

Duncan Hunter (CA)
David Roe (TN)
Glenn Thompson (PA)
Luke Messer (IN)
David Brat (VA)
Tom Garrett, Jr. (VA)

Democrats

Raul Grijalva (AZ)
Marcia Fudge (OH)
Suzanne Bonamici (OR)
Frederica Wilson (FL)

Appropriations Committee

Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), Chairman
Nita M. Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member

Republicans

Harold Rodgers (KY)
Robert Aderhold (AL)
Kay Granger (TX)
Michael Simpson (ID)
John Abney Culberson (TX)
John Carter (TX)
Ken Calvert (CA)
Tom Cole (OK)
Mario Diaz-Balart (FL)
Charles Dent (PA)
Tom Graves (GA)
Kevin Yoder (KS)
Steve Womack (AK)
Jeff Fortenberry (NE)
Thomas Rooney (FL)
Charles Fleischmann (TN)
Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA)
David Joyce (OH)
David Valadao (CA)
Andy Harris, MD (MD)
Martha Roby (AL)
Mark Amodei (NV)
Chris Stewart (UT)
David Young (IA)
Evan Jenkins (WV)
Steven Palazzo (MS)
Dan Newhouse (WA)
John Moolenaar (MI)
Scott Taylor (VA)

Democrats

Marcy Kaptur (OH)
Peter Visclosky (IN)
Jose Serrano (NY)
Rosa DeLauro (CT)
David Price (NC)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CT)
Sanford Bishop, Jr. (GA)
Barbara Lee (CA)
Betty McCollum (MN)
Tim Ryan (OH)
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)
Henry Cuellar (TX)
Chellie Pingree (ME)
Mike Quigley (IL)
Derek Kilmer (WA)
Matt Cartwright (PA)
Grace Meng (NY)
Mark Pocan (WI)
Katherine Clark (MA)
Pete Aguilar (CA)

Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Tom Cole (R-OK), Chairman
Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Ranking Member

Republicans

Mike Simpson (ID)
Steve Womack (AK) *Vice Chair*
Chuck Fleischmann (TN)
Andy Harris, MD (MD)
Martha Roby (AL)
Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA)
John Moolenaar (MI)

Democrats

Rosa DeLauro (CT)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA)
Barbara Lee (CA)
Mark Pocan (WI)
Katherine Clark (MA)

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

John Culberson (R-TX), Chairman
José Serrano (D-NY), Ranking Member

Republicans

Hal Rogers (KY)
Robert Aderholt (AL)
John Carter (TX)
Martha Roby (AL)
Steven Palazzo (MS)
Evan Jenkins (WV) *Vice Chair*

Democrats

Derek Kilmer (WA)
Matt Cartwright (PA)
Grace Meng (NY)

U.S. Senate

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Chairman
Patty Murray (D-WA), Ranking Member

Republicans

Mike Enzi (WY)
Richard Burr (NC)
Johnny Isakson (GA)
Rand Paul (KY)
Susan Collins (ME)
Bill Cassidy, MD (LA)
Todd Young (IN)
Orrin Hatch (UT)
Pat Roberts (KS)
Lisa Murkowski (AK)
Tim Scott (SC)

Democrats

Bernie Sanders (VT)
Robert Casey, Jr. (PA)
Al Franken (MN)
Michael Bennet (CO)
Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)
Tammy Baldwin (WI)
Christopher Murphy (CT)
Elizabeth Warren (MA)
Tim Kaine (VA)
Maggie Hassan (NH)

Subcommittee on Children and Families

Rand Paul (R-KY), Chairman
Robert P. Casey (D-PA), Ranking Member

Republicans

Lisa Murkowski (AK)
Richard Burr (NC)
Bill Cassidy, MD (LA)
Todd Young (IN)
Orrin Hatch (UT)
Pat Roberts (KS)
Lamar Alexander (TN)

Democrats

Bernie Sanders (VT)
Al Franken (MN)
Michael Bennet (CO)
Tim Kaine (VA)
Maggie Hassan (NH)
Patty Murray (WA)

Appropriations Committee

Thad Cochran (R-MS), Chairman
Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Vice Chairman

Republicans

Mitch McConnell (KY)
Richard Shelby (AL)
Lamar Alexander (TN)
Susan Collins (ME)
Lisa Murkowski (AK)
Lindsey Graham (SC)
Roy Blunt (MO)
Jerry Moran (KS)
John Hoeven (ND)
John Boozman (AR)
Shelley Moore Capito (WV)
James Lankford (OK)
Steve Daines (MT)
John Kennedy (LA)
Marco Rubio (FL)

Democrats

Dianne Feinstein (CA)
Richard Durbin (IL)
Jack Reed (RI)
Jon Tester (MT)
Tom Udall (NM)
Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
Jeff Merkley (OR)
Chris Coons (DE)
Brian Schatz (HI)
Tammy Baldwin (WI)
Chris Murphy (CT)
Joe Manchin (WV)
Chris Van Hollen (MD)

Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

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