
Redux: Press Inquiry & Legal Questions re missing document and DOE stance on 3 key issues (total 4 inquiries + 1 bonus)

Press <Press@ed.gov>

Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 9:34 AM

To: Gordon Watts <gww1210@gmail.com>

Mr. Watts,

Good morning. Following up on questions you sent our press office this week. Here is what we can tell you. On background, attributed to an Education Department spokesperson:

1. Why were documents from the previous administration removed from your website with the change in administrations? Especially, one from former Education Department General Counsel (Delegated) Reed Rubinstein?
 - a. **Please see our blog post, which explains our website modernization effort.**
2. What is your position on student loan bankruptcy reform?
 - a. **Please see our Aug. 6 announcement, extending the student loan repayment pause until Jan. 31, thus helping borrowers plan for the resumption of payments and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart.**
3. What is your position on “collective beliefs that DOE should use its ‘bully pulpit’ to ask lawmakers to reduce or eliminate use of tax dollars to make or guarantee student loans?”
 - a. **Please see the announcement linked above.**
4. What is your position on the controversy surrounding competing claims about the President's "Exec Order" authority to cancel all federally held student debt?
 - a. **Please see the numerous instances where the Department has exercised its authority to forgive student debt, when appropriate.**
5. “BONUS QUESTION: Why doesn't DOE have a General Counsel -- and when will you fill that position?”
 - a. **Please see Secretary Cardona's [statement](#) praising the nomination of Lisa Brown to be the Education Department's general counsel.**

Thank you.

Press Office

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Washington

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