

# Executive Power, Education Funding, and the Expanding Governance Crisis in 2026

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Prospera Research - Automated Scientific Summary

## Key Takeaways

- Executive authority continues expanding through aggressive funding actions
- Education and research funding battles are intensifying political conflict
- Public trust in institutions tied to perceptions of fairness and legitimacy

## Overview

Government institutions across the United States are facing mounting controversy in 2026 as battles over executive authority, education funding, and federal oversight intensify. Political polarization is reshaping how government power is exercised and challenged.

"This is not merely a budget dispute," said Cass Sunstein.

"It is a constitutional question about executive power."

## Education Funding Crisis

Federal agencies have withheld or frozen billions of dollars in congressionally approved education grants, triggering lawsuits and widespread criticism.

"Public education is one of the core stabilizing institutions of democracy," explained Joseph Stiglitz. "Undermining it has long-term societal consequences."

## Institutional Trust

Surveys consistently show declining confidence in institutions ranging from universities to government agencies. Experts warn that polarization and misinformation are weakening democratic stability itself.

"When scientific institutions become politicized, trust deteriorates rapidly," said Francis Fukuyama.

## Sources

- Education funding disputes
- Executive order and governance analysis
- Scientific institution controversy