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The annual EDFacts collection is essential, and the data it collects provides value to the U.S. economy that extends well beyond simple statutory compliance. EDFacts provides core information about the complete collection of public schools, charter schools, school districts, and other local education agencies in the U.S., and we can't reliably assess the conditions of education without it. EDFacts provides essential inputs for responsible and efficient management of federal programs that impact schools (not just programs within the Department of Education), and it provides essential information required to conduct other essential measurement activities like the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The federal government has an essential role in collecting and reporting information about the conditions of education in the U.S., even if that role isn't formally organized within a Department of Education. And EDFacts is the fundamental data pipeline that supports that foundational role. It ensures that educational institutions across all states are measured the same way at the same time

The Department should continue to provide robust assistance to states and state-equivalent entities to maintain and improve the quality, utility, and clarity of this collection. Recent reductions in contract support and Department staff will jeopardize future collection efforts and reduce the information available to parents and the public about school choice options.