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On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 240 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and The Leadership Conference Education Fund, we write in response to the proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) published in the Federal Register for the 2026 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

As discussed in the letter, we are deeply concerned about the U.S. Department of Education (ED)'s recent decision to remove the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) confidentiality assurance from the administration of the NAEP assessment. This decision, reportedly due to internal staffing shortages within ED's statistical agency, raises serious civil rights implications, and jeopardizes the long-standing legal and ethical commitments to student privacy. We urge ED to immediately change course and ensure sufficient staffing in order to comply with the law and protect students' privacy.

We look forward to your response.