



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## OFFICE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

June 2, 2025

### ACQUISITION ALERT 2025-06

TO: Heads of Contracting Activities

FROM: Calvin J. Mitchell Jr. Calvin J Mitchell Jr. Digitally signed by Calvin J Mitchell Jr.  
Date: 2025.06.02 09:18:45 -04'00'  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Acquisition Management  
Senior Procurement Executive

SUBJECT: FAR Class Deviation for FAR Part 1 in Support of Executive Order on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement

- 1. Purpose.** This Acquisition Alert (AA) adopts a class deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 1 for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text to FAR Part 1.
- 2. Background.** On April 15, 2025, the Executive Order (E.O.) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement was signed. Section 2 of the E.O. establishes the policy that the FAR "should only contain provisions required by statute or essential to sound procurement, and any FAR provisions that do not advance these objectives should be removed." On May 31, 2025, the enclosed class deviation was issued for the use of all Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) model deviation texts and corresponding EDAR deviations.

In explaining the Federal Acquisition System, the RFO FAR Part 1 model deviation text establishes bedrock principles. Most centrally, it sets a "mission first" message at the top of the guiding principles. The RFO FAR Part 1 model deviation also increases the emphasis on the best use of taxpayer dollars and calls out the value of time as another guiding principle. Additionally, it retains a focus on satisfying the customer, maximizing use of commercial products and services, promoting competition, and encouraging innovation.

Statutory requirements retained in the RFO FAR Part 1 model deviation include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 31 U.S.C. 3702, Authority to Settle Claims
- 41 U.S.C. 13 et seq, Acquisition Councils
- 41 U.S.C. 17 et seq, Agency Responsibilities and Procedures
- 41 U.S.C. 1908, Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition Thresholds

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*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

- 41 U.S.C. 3102, Delegation and Assignment of Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities

Non-statutory requirements removed from FAR Part 1 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The list of OMB approved control numbers contained in subpart 1.1. These controls numbers are now listed on [Acquisition.gov](https://www.acquisition.gov)
- Subpart 1.2 – Administration
- Subpart 1.5 – Agency and Public Participation procedures

Other key changes include:

- Class deviations require approval by the FAR Council except where required to implement agency-specific executive or statutory direction.
- 3. Instructions.** The Department of Education’s acquisition workforce shall follow the RFO Part 1 model deviation text instead of FAR Part 1 as codified at 48 CFR Chapter 1. The Council’s RFO Part 1 model deviation text is available [here](#). A separate Acquisition Alert will be issued for corresponding changes to the EDAR.
  - 4. Training.** Acquisition Professionals are highly encouraged to review the model deviation text and line through within 30 days.
  - 5. Effective Date.** This class deviation to FAR Part 1 is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or incorporated into the FAR.
  - 6. Points of Contact.** Direct questions regarding this class deviation to your respective policy points of contact.
  - 7. Enclosure.** Determination and Findings - Class Deviation for the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS**  
Department of Education, All Contracting Activities  
Class Deviation for the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul

This approves a class deviation to all Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Department of Education Acquisition Regulation (EDAR) parts for purposes of implementing the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's (the Council's) model deviation text.

**Findings**

On April 15, 2025, the Executive Order (E.O.) 14275 on Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement was signed. Section 2 of the E.O. establishes the policy that the FAR "should only contain provisions required by statute or essential to sound procurement, and any FAR provisions that do not advance these objectives should be removed."

The FAR is being updated to:

- Remove language that is not required by statute
- Remove duplicative or outdated language
- Clarify or provide more plain language
- Revise language for the new FAR framework
- Retain language necessary for governmentwide acquisition standards

This project is referred to as the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO) initiative.

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The FAR Council Deviation guidance allows for agencies to deviate agency acquisition regulation supplements as it relates to the RFO.

**Determination**

In accordance with FAR 1.404 and EDAR 3401.404, I hereby issue a class deviation for the use of all RFO model deviation texts and corresponding EDAR deviations. The adoption date for each RFO part model deviation text will be the date of the corresponding Acquisition Alert. EDAR deviation texts may be issued in a separate Acquisition Alert. All Department of Education contracting activities must follow the RFO model deviation texts instead of the FAR Parts codified at 48 CFR. Should the language of the RFO FAR contradict any statutorily granted procurement authorities to the Department of Education including the Office of Federal Student Aid, the statutorily granted authorities prevail.

In the unlikely event that the Department wishes to vary from a RFO model deviation text, a separate deviation will be issued. This class deviation will remain in effect until incorporated into the FAR, EDAR or rescinded.

**RICHARD LUCAS** Digitally signed by RICHARD LUCAS  
Date: 2025.05.31 08:30:12 -04'00'

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Richard Lucas

Date

Acting Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)