



# DAILY BRIEFING

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Monday, March 21, 2022

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## Weekly Rundown

The NCHER Weekly Rundown, which includes the latest information on important events in Washington, DC, is available today and can be downloaded from the [NCHER website](#).

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## White House Nominates Nasser Paydar as Next Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education

On Friday, the White House [announced](#) that the President will nominate Dr. Nasser

Paydar as the next Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. The position oversees four units in the Office of Postsecondary Education: Higher Education Programs; International and Foreign Language Education; Policy, Planning and Innovation; and Accreditation. Currently, Dr. Michelle Asha Cooper serves as Acting Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. Dr. Paydar is Chancellor Emeritus of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Executive Vice President of Indiana University (IU). An IU faculty member for more than 36 years, he has held various administrative and executive leadership positions at the university. Dr. Paydar joined IUPUI in 1985 as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. From 1989 to 2003, he held a number of positions at the university, including Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, and Executive Associate Dean. From 2004 to 2007, he served as Vice Chancellor and Dean of Indiana University–Purdue University Columbus. Dr. Paydar was appointed Chancellor of Indiana University East in 2007, serving in that role until he returned to IUPUI in 2012, when he was named the campus’s Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer. He became IUPUI’s fifth chancellor in 2015.

Following the announcement, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona released a [statement](#) praising Dr. Paydar’s selection. “I could not be more pleased with President Biden’s decision to nominate Dr. Nasser Paydar as Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education,” he said. “Throughout his more than 35 years of experience as a higher education leader, Dr. Paydar has championed equitable and affordable access to postsecondary education. He also has placed an important focus on diversifying the higher education workforce. I’m confident that Dr. Paydar will advance our efforts at the Department of Education and throughout the Biden-Harris administration to provide students of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities with more inclusive, affordable postsecondary learning opportunities, whether they be college degrees or career and technical programs. I have no doubt Dr. Paydar will be an asset to the Department and hope for his swift confirmation so he can join us in this critical work.”

## Committee For a Responsible Federal Budget Releases Analysis Finding Student Loan Payment Pause is Regressive

Last week, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) published an [analysis](#) that found the federal student loan payment and interest pause put in place in March 2020 was regressive. In the analysis, the organization argued that, through a combination

of the pause's halt on interest accrual and heightened inflation, as of May 1, the payment pause will have "forgiven" the equivalent of \$5,500 per borrower. CRFB estimated that total forgiveness is expected to exceed \$100 billion and extending the pause will cost taxpayers roughly \$50 billion per additional year. The organization identified student and parent borrowers with the highest balances as those receiving the greatest financial benefit, finding that the pause was regressive in nature. CRFP recommends that policymakers resume student loan payments as scheduled on May 1, 2022.

## Treasury and IRS Permanently Allow Public PAB Hearings to be Conducted Telephonically

The U.S. Department of Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service recently announced that they adopted guidance eliminating the time period limitation on the ability to hold public hearings required under the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) on qualified private activity bonds telephonically. Under Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code, tax-exempt qualified private activity bonds are subject to a public approval requirement. Except for refunding bonds, a bond issue must be approved by the governmental unit issuing the bonds (or on behalf of which such bonds are issued) and by the governmental unit having jurisdiction over the area in which any facility to be financed by the issue is located. An issue will be treated as having been approved by any governmental unit if the issue is approved by the applicable elected representative of the governmental unit after a public hearing following reasonable public notice, or by voter referendum of the governmental unit. The new guidance, released on March 18, 2022, supersedes previous temporary relief granted in response to public health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the guidance, issuers need to provide interested persons with a toll-free number. Participation by internet-based meeting technology (e.g., Zoom, MS Teams, GoToMeeting, WebEx, etc.), is also permitted provided the notice of the public hearing includes a toll-free number.

## U.S. Department of Education News

For today's *Federal Register*, click [here](#).

The following announcements were posted to Federal Student Aid's Knowledge Center website:

- [\(GENERAL-22-16\) FSA Partner Connect - Resolution of Incorrect Authenticated User Role Emails](#)

- [\(COD-22-01\) COD System Implementation for 2022-23 Award Year](#)
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## General News

*The Wall Street Journal* recently published [The WSJ Guide to Student Loans: Navigating the Myths and Misunderstandings About College Debt](#), which aims dispel some of the misconceptions about paying for college, taking on student debt, and what graduates earn. The news organization analyzed a vast trove of federal education data to more definitively say which schools offer a good financial return and which leave graduates with crippling loans.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reviews the recently completed negotiated rulemaking activities of the Institutional and Programmatic Eligibility Committee established by the U.S. Department of Education. Last week, the committee failed to reach agreement with key higher education representatives on proposals for several new regulations, including those that would heavily impact the for-profit sector and monitor colleges' financial health. The committee reached consensus on only two of the seven issue papers: regulatory changes around the 90/10 rule and ability to benefit.

[The Wall Street Journal](#) includes an op-ed by its Editorial Board that argues the federal student loan payment pause is turning into permanent forbearance, and says it is the biggest scam of the pandemic costing taxpayers \$100 billion and counting.

[The Washington Post](#) reports that the U.S. Department of Education is considering broader debt relief for former students of the defunct Dream Center Education Holdings, which ran Argosy University, South University, and The Art Institutes, amid pressure from state attorneys general.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) includes an op-ed by Wellesley College Professor of Economics Phillip Levine who argues college is cheaper than students and their families think.

[CBS News](#) reports that, as the freeze on federal student loan payments is set to expire in May, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona told *CBS Mornings* that the Biden Administration is working to help students with federal student loan debt relief.

[Business Insider](#) reports that Democratic politicians are worried that inaction by the

White House on federal student loan forgiveness will dampen youth turnout for the midterm elections.

[MarketWatch](#) publishes an article from NerdWallet saying that not all student loan borrowers need to drop everything and refinance their debt right now. Here is who should rush to refinance and those who have reason to wait.

[Politico](#) reports that private lenders are lobbying to get the Biden Administration to restart federal student loan payments as the pandemic-related moratorium is slated to expire on May 1st.

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**National Council of Higher Education Resources**

1050 Connecticut Ave NW #65793

Washington, DC 20035

Phone: **(202) 822-2106**

Fax: (202) 822-2142

MailPoet