



DAILY BRIEFING

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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](#).

NCHER Legislative and Leadership Conference – House Education Committee Chair Foxx Slated to Give Keynote Address

The NCHER Legislative and Leadership Conference, which will be held on February 6-8, 2023 at the Westin Washington, DC City Center, is two weeks away! This popular conference will be the first opportunity to hear about federal and state developments impacting the higher education finance industry and to meet with the House and Senate Education Committee leadership, Biden Administration officials, and your Congressional delegation on your organization's advocacy priorities. So Register Today!

The NCHER Board of Directors and staff have been hard at work putting together the program agenda geared toward providing important and timely sessions on the political and policy environment in the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the Biden Administration. This is a 'can't-miss' event for the NCHER membership! The current draft program includes:

- An important session with government relations experts who will provide a federal update on recent developments impacting the higher education finance industry and the outlook as we begin 2023.
- House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman Virginia Foxx will speak about her priorities for higher education, including ideas to improve federal and private student loan programs and college access and success initiatives.
- U.S. Department of Education Deputy Under Secretary Ben Miller will speak about the agency's policies and priorities, including reforms to the federal student loan program.
- A Congressional staff panel where House and Senate Republican and Democratic staff will discuss the priorities of the Democratic and Republican leadership in the 118th Congress and whether there are consensus areas for enactment of improvements to federal and private student aid programs.
- A timely session from the National Student Clearinghouse examining enrollment trends in postsecondary education, followed by observations from college and university leaders on a range of current topics such as learner access, affordability, student outcomes, and value measures.

- Engaging sessions examining state policies impacting higher education finance; examining recent proposals impacting private student loan programs; and how the higher education finance industry is managing Board and staff through the period of ongoing uncertainty and change as a result of the federal student loan forgiveness program, Fresh Start, and new income-driven repayment plans.
- Multiple opportunities to meet with your Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill, and a bootcamp session to review NCHER's Advocacy Priorities for the 2023 in advance of Congressional and agency visits.

So [Register Today!](#) Once you're doing registering, be sure that you make your hotel reservations at the Westin. NCHER has secured a room rate of \$199 per room, per night, which will be available until the group reservation cut off date or the room block is full whichever comes first. You can call the hotel at 202-429-1700 or click [here](#) to make online reservations.

We look forward to seeing you in-person in Washington, DC!

Arizona Attorney General Files Notice Dismissing Challenge to Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Program

[Last week, newly-elected Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes \(D\) filed a notice](#) with the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona dismissing the state's legal challenge to the U.S. Department of Education's federal student loan forgiveness program, which her Republican predecessor filed in September 2023. The lawsuit in federal court was separate from the case that is scheduled to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court later this month, and had been moving more slowly than other legal challenges.

Common App Report Predicts Increase in Applicants for Upcoming School Year

The Common Application recently released a [new report](#) saying that applications through January 1, 2023 are up 20 percent from the 2019-2020 school year. Underrepresented minority applicants increased by 30 percent over 2019-20, while first-generation applicants increased by 35 percent, nearly three times the rate of continuing-generation applicants over the same period. That said, 56 percent of applications are coming from the wealthiest 20 percent of ZIP codes nationwide, compared with just 6 percent from the least wealthy 20 percent. The Common App had a steep decline in students submitting SAT or ACT scores from the 2019-2020 school year (78 percent) to the 2020-

2021 school year (44 percent), due to the COVID-19 pandemic and students' inability to take the exams. That number rebounded slightly in 2021-2022 to 48 percent, and is now sitting at 47 percent, though the percentage could indicate a more long-term trend away from valuing standardized test scores.

Key findings include the following:

- The number of distinct international applicants increased at nearly triple the rate of applicants in the United States since 2019–20 (45 percent versus 17 percent). The leading countries were: China, India, Nigeria, Ghana, and Canada.
- Applications grew more at public institutions of higher education (39 percent) than at private institutions (13 percent).
- There is considerable variation by state. South Carolina saw the greatest growth over 2019–20 (78 percent), followed by Texas (67 percent). South Dakota, a state with historically low applicant volume, lost the most applicants (58 percent), while Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine each saw declines.

New Research Shines Light on College Enrollment, Value Gaps

Today, two new research reports were released with useful findings about college enrollment and attendance gaps.

First, the Brookings Institution's Center on Children and Families released a report titled, [College Enrollment Disparities: Understanding the Role of Academic Preparation](#), which looked specifically at enrollment gaps by gender, race, and socioeconomic status among students with similar academic preparation. The report found that college enrollment gaps by socioeconomic status, gender, and race are significant, and that gaps are much smaller and sometimes reversed among students with similar academic preparation. Disparities in college enrollment rates by race and ethnicity are large: 83 percent of Asian, compared with 72 percent of white, 63 percent of Black, and 62 percent of Hispanic youth enrolled in either a two-year or four-year college. However, among students with similar academic preparation, the order changes: Black students are the most likely to enroll in college, followed by Hispanic, white, and Asian students. The results suggest that policymakers and researchers interested in addressing college enrollment disparities should pay careful attention to disparities in academic preparation during elementary and secondary education.

Second, The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), released a report titled, [Shifting Narratives: Centering Race in Defining and Measuring College Value](#). The report found students who attended colleges and universities that serve greater shares of students of color earn less in income 10 years after graduation than their peers who attended colleges with fewer students of color. It also found that, for students who attended colleges serving the largest share of Black students, the graduates owe more in student loans than they originally borrowed. The analysis introduced a new metric developed by TICAS, race and economic mobility that looks to capture economic outcomes based on institutions' composition of racially marginalized students.

U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcement was posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website:

The Department of Education announced 38 awards totaling over \$30 million to colleges and universities from five competitive grant programs of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education or FIPSE, which aims to improve higher education opportunities and outcomes for students from underrepresented communities.

- [Comment Request: Cash Management Contract URL Collection](#)
- [Federal Family Education Loan Program Special Allowance Rates for the Quarter Ending Dec. 31, 2022](#)

Member News



The Boards of Directors of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC) recently [announced](#) that they are seeking a dynamic leader to fill the position of Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director. KHEAA/KHESLC are sister

organizations created by state statute, whose joint mission is to enable Kentuckians to achieve their education goals beyond high school. The CEO/Executive Director will serve as one of the Commonwealth's leading policy advocates for financial access to and successful completion of postsecondary education, representing the interests of prospective and enrolled Kentucky students and their families. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume via email in PDF format to ceosearch@kheaa.com by 4:30 PM EST Tuesday, January 31, 2023. For more information, click [here](#).

General News

[Forbes](#) reports on concerns raised by interest groups over delays to the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and what that could mean for students and families.

[WTOP](#) reports that Maryland lawmakers are investigating allegations that families are having issues accessing their funds in the state's college savings plan. On Friday, the board chair of the state's 529 plan resigned.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) recently analyzed the \$1.7 billion in Congressional earmarks included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act included for colleges and universities and where they went

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