



DAILY BRIEFING

Monday, July 18, 2022

In Today's Edition

- Weekly Rundown
- Department of Education Publishes Blog on College and Career Pathways
- College Avenue Student Loans Survey Finds Half of Families Plan to Borrow to Finance Postsecondary Education
- NCAN Report Finds Increase in FAFSA Applications This Year
- U.S. Department of Education News
- Member News
- General News



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](#).

Department of Education Publishes Blog on College and Career Pathways

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education published a blog post titled, [Career and College Pathways in Action: Top Takeaways from Experts in the Field](#), written by

Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education Amy Loyd. The blog post summarized key takeaways from a recent webinar hosted by the Department, which featured Mr. Farhad Asghar, Program Officer for Pathways to Postsecondary Success Program, Carnegie Corporation of New York; Mr. Jarrad Toussant, Senior Vice President, Dallas Regional Chamber; Dr. Lisa Small, Superintendent of Schools, Township High School District 211; Dr. Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges; and Mr. Neil Sullivan, Executive Director, Boston Private Industry Council. Assistant Secretary Loyd highlighted findings from the webinar that included best practices to cultivate, strengthen, and grow the ecosystem necessary for employers and youth to thrive. These include:

- Using data strategically
- Elevating student and parent voices
- Embracing career-connected learning
- Empowering students to own their futures
- Discovering and applying innovative strategies
- Blending funding to create sustainable pathways
- Intertwining college and career-connected learning
- Engaging opponents and find places of consensus
- Focusing on the intersection of educators and employers
- Partnering with intermediaries

“Our nation’s future depends upon an educated and skilled workforce—especially as economic mobility is in decline and the world of work is rapidly shifting,” said Assistant Secretary Loyd. “The preparation of young people through career and college pathways is a powerful, evidence- and research-based approach to provide students with the education and experience they need and deserve to participate in our democracy and thrive in our economy.”

College Avenue Student Loans Survey Finds Half of Families Plan to Borrow to Finance Postsecondary Education

Today, College Avenue Student Loans released the results of a [survey](#) that found more

than half of families plan to borrow student or parent loans in order to pay for tuition bills and other college expenses. The survey, conducted by Barnes and Noble College Insights, found that nearly three out of four respondents (74 percent) said they found the cost of college to be surprisingly high. The top three areas of unexpected higher costs were tuition and fees, room and board, and a child's personal expenses.

To help manage the financial gap, more than half of families (54 percent) plan to borrow, including federal student loans (43 percent), private student loans (15 percent), and parent loans (18 percent). For some families, they plan to use a combination of the above loans. The survey also found that finding solutions to finance college is important to families – nearly all (91 percent) parents of college-aged students strongly agree a college degree is important for their child's future.

NCAN Report Finds Increase in FAFSA Applications This Year

The National College Attainment Network (NCAN) recently published a report based on data from its FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid] tracker on the [Form Your Future](#) website, which found that, through July 1st, FAFSA applications are up by 4.6 percent from the previous year. This represents that high school seniors have filed an additional 92,000 applications. NCAN estimates that 52.1 percent of high school seniors completed the FAFSA application this year; although the figure is not as high as pre-pandemic levels, it still shows an increase over 2020 and 2021 completion rates. The data demonstrates strong increases in applications from low-income public schools and includes gains across most states – only 11 states had fewer applications in 2022 compared to the previous year. This morning, *Politico* talked with NCAN Senior Director of Data and Strategic Initiatives Bill DeBaun where he said, “We just had a much more normal academic year. But we are still not back to pre-pandemic normalcy and may not ever be. Students were better connected with college and career advising services being back in person in high school...The other piece is the economy is very hot right now. High school seniors are thinking about, “Do I want to go into the workforce or do I want to pursue a college education?” For some students, when starting wages are so high right now, they may think to themselves, “I’m gonna delay it for a semester or a year.” In the report, NCAN noted that postsecondary education enrollment rates are usually tied to FAFSA completion rates, so the organization will continue to track high school class of 2022 data in order to determine whether this class will reverse the enrollment trends of recent years.

U.S. Department of Education News

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

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

- [\(GENERAL-22-45\) Volume 3 - Calculating Awards and Packaging \[2022-2023 Federal Student Aid Handbook\]](#)
 - [\(GENERAL-22-44\) NSLDS Professional Access - Additional Information to Prepare for Upcoming Launch of Modernized Website](#)
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Member News



The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) and Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC)

announced that MDHEWD's Federal Family Education Loan Program guaranty portfolio has been assigned to ECMC, effective October 1, 2022. MDHEWD stated that this decision was made to ensure borrowers receive the relief to which they are entitled in a timely manner. The announcement noted that updates on the transition will be posted to the [ECMC website](#).



Western Governors University (WGU) is a private, online, nonprofit, accredited higher education institution with over 130,000 students in all 50 states. WGU is announcing a Request For Information (RFI) to identify potential preferred

lending providers. The first round of RFI responses will be evaluated starting on August 8, 2022. To obtain the complete RFI, please make a request via e-mail to WGU's Procurement Department at wgubidbox@wgu.edu; ensure the subject line references "RFI # MT [PRC0002129](#) - Preferred Lender". After August 8, 2022, responses will be periodically reviewed on a rolling basis.



[The Meadville Tribune](#) includes a reminder for students from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency to submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA by August 1 to qualify for a state grant.

General News

[Ballard Spahr's Consumer Finance Monitor](#) highlights the State of Oregon's new final student loan servicing regulations that went into effect on July 1st.

[Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#) reports that, as part of the Bipartisan Innovation Act, Congress is weighing an amendment to expand Pell Grant eligibility to short-term programs or those as short as eight weeks and no longer than 15 weeks. Yet the amendment leaves out online, short-term programs, fueling debate around what that may mean for low-income students. Should short-term online programs get Pell Grants?

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports on the latest thinking on how to reenroll stopped-out college students. Attracting some of the 39 million people in the U.S. with some college but no

degree requires creativity and flexible, affordable options, experts say.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) and [Higher Ed Dive](#) report that for-profit institutions are seeking to intervene in the federal borrower defense to repayment settlement reached by the U.S. Department of Education and consumer groups. The motion could delay the discharges of \$6 billion in federal student debt arranged by the recent settlement in Sweet v. Cardona.

[Forbes](#) reports on new research from the Urban Institute showing that private colleges and universities, both for-profit and non-profits, are more significant drivers of high levels of debt from master's degrees than public institutions.

[University Business](#) reports that more and more hiring managers care about where their potential employees went to college, according to a recent report by Intelligenet.com.

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