



DAILY BRIEFING

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Important Announcement Regarding the NCHER Legislative and Leadership Conference

After careful consideration, the NCHER leadership has voted to move the upcoming

Legislative and Leadership Conference to a virtual conference. While we were hoping to have our first in-person conference since early 2020, the current spike in the number of Americans that have tested positive for the omicron variant coupled with how to properly protect the health and well-being of our members caused us to reevaluate our plan. Our current plan is to hold the Legislative and Leadership Conference as a Zoom webinar with largely the same format and speakers as before, January 31 – February 2, 2022. The NCHER staff will be happy to refund any in-person registration fees or to apply them to the virtual option. We know that some members will be disappointed that we will not be meeting in-person. It is our hope that the omicron variant dissipates over the next few weeks and we can meet in-person for the NCHER Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia!

Department of Education Announces Members of the Institutional and Programmatic Eligibility Committee, Releases Draft Papers

Politico reported that the U.S. Department of Education recently announced the members of the upcoming Institutional and Programmatic Eligibility Committee that has been tasked with negotiating and revising certain federal regulations impacting higher education. The nonfederal negotiators include the following:

- Accrediting Agencies
 - Jamiene S. Studley, WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) (primary)
 - Laura Rasar King, Council on Education for Public Health (alternate)
- Civil Rights Organizations and Consumer Advocacy Organizations
 - Carolyn Fast, The Century Foundation (primary)
 - Jaylon Herbin, Center for Responsible Lending (alternate)

- Financial Aid Administrators at Postsecondary Institutions
 - Samantha Veeder, University of Rochester (primary)
 - David Peterson, University of Cincinnati (alternate)
- Four-Year Public Institutions of Higher Education
 - Marvin Smith, University of California, Los Angeles (primary)
 - Deborah Stanley, Bowie State University (alternate)
- Legal Assistance Organizations that Represent Students and/or Borrowers
 - Tyler Johnson, Brooklyn Legal Services (primary)
 - Jessica Ranucci, New York Legal Assistance Group (alternate)
- Minority-Serving Institutions
 - Beverly Hogan, Tougaloo College (retired) (primary)
 - Ashley Schofield, Claflin University (alternate)
- Private, Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education
 - Kelli Perry, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (primary)
 - Emmanuel A. Guillory, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)(alternate)
- Proprietary Institutions of Higher Education
 - Bradley Adams, South College (primary)
 - Michael Lanouette, Aviation Institute of Maintenance/Centura College/Tidewater Tech (alternate)
- State Attorneys General

- Adam Welle, Minnesota Attorney General's Office (primary)
 - Yael Shavit, Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General (alternate)
- State Higher Education Executive Officers, State Authorizing Agencies, and/or State Regulators of Institutions of Higher Education and/or Loan Servicers
 - Debbie Cochrane, California Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education (primary)
 - David Socolow, New Jersey's Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) (alternate)
- Students and Student Loan Borrowers
 - Ernest Ezeugo, Young Invincibles (primary)
 - Carney King, California State Senate (alternate)
- Two-Year Public Institutions of Higher Education
 - Anne Kress, Northern Virginia Community College (primary)
 - William S. Durden, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (alternate)
- U.S. Military Service Members, Veterans, or Groups Representing them
 - Travis Horr, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (primary)
 - Barmak Nassirian, Veterans Education Success (alternate)

The Department also released several draft proposals on the topics that the negotiated rulemaking committee will examine over the next few months. Highlights of the papers include the following:

- 90/10 rule: The Department's initial proposal does not explicitly list which types of federal funds would count toward the 90 percent cap under the new calculations

for the 90-10 rule. Instead, it calls for the Secretary of Education to publish an annual list of other federal agencies that provide education assistance. The Department said it would set up data-sharing agreements with those other agencies to track such funding.

- **Gainful employment:** The Department did not offer a draft regulatory proposal on gainful employment, but said its overarching goal is to craft new rules “that promote better labor market outcomes, create value for students’ investments in higher education, protect students from acquiring debts they cannot afford to repay, and safeguard the interests of taxpayers.”
- **Change in ownership and control:** The Department is proposing a revamp of the requirements related to how the agency approves the sale of a college to new owners or the conversion of a for-profit college into a nonprofit entity.
- **Financial Responsibility:** The Department unveiled a proposal that would give federal regulators greater powers to require collateral from colleges that may be at risk of financial collapse.
- **New career service requirements:** Colleges would face a new requirement to provide “adequate” career services to their students who receive federal student aid under the proposal. The requirement would apply to all colleges, but it appears to be targeted toward schools that enroll large numbers of students in career college programs. Under the plan, the Department would examine the “number and distribution of career services staff” as well as the existence of partnerships with recruiters and employers.

The Institutional and Programmatic Eligibility Committee is slated to hold the first of three sessions next week, January 18-21, 2022. For more information, visit the Department’s [Negotiated Rulemaking website](#).

NCES Releases Report on College Affordability and Enrollment

The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) recently released a Data Point analysis titled, [College Affordability Views and College Enrollment](#). The study looked at the connection between views of college affordability in high school and college enrollment, and observed the relationship between perceptions of affordability, parental education level, and college enrollment. It found that the group most likely to enroll in college were students who believed they could afford college and had at least one parent with a bachelor's or other college degrees. Ninety percent of those students attended college within the first three years after high school. The report also found that the group least likely to enroll in college were students who believed they could not afford college and had at least one parent with a high school diploma or less. Just 55 percent of those students attended college within the first three years after high school. Across all levels of parental education, students who perceived college to be affordable when they were high school juniors were more likely to have enrolled in college within three years of high school than their peers who did not. "College affordability is a major concern for families, and paying for college looms large for students, particularly students who would be the first in their families to earn a degree," NCES Commissioner Peggy Carr said in a written statement. "This new analysis reveals that students are more likely to enroll in college if they believe their family can afford to send them. A student's belief in their ability to afford college may have important implications for how they search for information on paying for college while in high school or whether to apply."

For more coverage of the report, see this article from [Inside Higher Ed](#).

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:

- [\(GENERAL-22-04\) Reminder: Mandatory SAIG Software Upgrade - EDconnect 8.5.1 Security Patch Must Be Installed by Feb. 20, 2022](#)
- [\(GENERAL-22-03\) Volume 5 - Withdrawals and the Return of Title IV Funds \[2021-2022 Federal Student Aid Handbook\]](#)
- [Comment Request; Borrower Defenses Against Loan Repayment](#)
- [Comment Request; Student Assistance General Provisions-Annual Fire Safety Report](#)
- [Comment Request; Student Assistance General Provisions-Non-Title IV Revenue Requirements \(90/10\)](#)

Member News



Iowa Student Loan released [its Annual Report](#), which outlines the achievements

and outcomes over the fiscal year. The report highlights several resources for students, including the Student Loan Game Plan. In 2021, 16.6 percent of students that utilized this tool reduced their requested loan and 91 percent of students indicated that this tool increased their knowledge of how borrowing would impact their future.

General News

[The Hill](#) reports that advocates and lawmakers are stepping up the pressure on the President to act on student loan forgiveness, focusing on it as a major issue some warn Democrats could pay for at the ballot box in the upcoming midterm elections.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that community college leaders are worried about enrolling and retaining students as the Omicron variant spreads across the country.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports that college and university finances are facing a long road to recovery following the economic fallout associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the path to pre-pandemic norms is uncertain.

[Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#) reviews recommendations from The Century Foundation, a progressive think tank, on several suggestions for better protecting students and taxpayers from colleges, particularly for-profits, at risk of closing abruptly.

[Forbes](#) publishes a column reporting on four signs that federal student loan cancellation is not off the table. Related, [Fortune](#) reports on how President Joe Biden might approach student loan forgiveness in 2022.

[NBC News](#) reports that crushing student loan debt is prompting parents to postpone their retirement plans.

[Fox 5 Atlanta](#) reports on three student loans changes that will take place in 2022 that student and parent borrowers should know about.

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