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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](#).

## Department of Education Begins Forgiving Some Federal Student Loans Under Sweet v. Cardona Settlement

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education began discharging the federal student loans of hundreds of thousands of borrowers who they say were defrauded by their colleges

and universities. In November 2022, a federal judge granted final approval to a settlement of a class-action lawsuit filed in 2018 that accused the Department of ignoring their borrower defense to repayment applications. However, a group of institutions — Everglades College, American National University and Lincoln Educational Services— appealed the judgment, claiming it violated federal law. On February 24, 2023, a federal judge denied the appeal motion to halt the full settlement, but agreed to pause loan cancellation for seven days for applicants who attended the three schools to seek a stay from the appellate court. The Department's actions seem to have begun after the seven-day period and will provide automatic relief, including refunds of money paid to the agency and credit repair, to more than 200,000 borrowers. For additional coverage, see this article from [The Washington Post](#).

## CSAC Releases New Report Showing Undocumented Students Struggle with State Financial Aid

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) recently released a new [report](#) outlining the barriers that undocumented students experience trying to access state financial aid. The report found that, while nearly 100,000 undocumented students reside in California, only 29 percent applied for financial aid through an application under the California Dream Act during the 2021–22 academic year, enrolled in postsecondary education, and received state aid. The report also found that only 14 percent of the estimated undocumented student population in postsecondary education received financial aid. The report included recommendations to federal policymakers and higher education leaders to make higher education more accessible and affordable to undocumented students. The report recommends that Congress expand eligibility for Pell Grants for undocumented students, include undocumented students in federal efforts to extend work authorization and legal protections via H1-B visas to international students, and include adoption of a federal Dream Act for qualifying students to be able to more fully and securely contribute to our nation's economy. For further coverage, see this article from [Inside Higher Ed](#).

## U.S. Department of Education News

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

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## Member News

# ECMC Group

## ECMC Assumes Responsibility for Loans Guaranteed by Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority

Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) [announced](#) that it has become the designated guaranty agency for the Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA) Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)

portfolio. Since the appointment, ECMC has been working closely with UHEAA to ensure smooth transition of services for students with outstanding loans made under FFELP. “ECMC is pleased to support former UHEAA borrowers with high-quality customer service leveraging our flexible technology platform,” said Chad Tate, President of ECMC. ECMC is also the designated guarantor in Virginia, Oregon, Connecticut, California, Tennessee, South Carolina, Rhode Island, Maine, Missouri, and Louisiana and the third-party guarantor servicer for three clients.

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## General News

Brookings Institution’s Adam Looney writes a [blog post](#) that the U.S. Department of Education does not know what its new income driven repayment plan will cost or who will benefit.

[The Hill](#) examines what the White House may try next if the U.S. Department of Education’s federal student loan forgiveness program is struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

[Yahoo Finance](#) reports that the debate surrounding federal student loan forgiveness – and by extension college affordability – has led to a record number of 529 College Savings Plans.

[Business Insider](#) reports that, even if the U.S. Supreme Court finds the U.S. Department of Education’s federal student-loan forgiveness was an overreach of authority, it does not

mean the relief will get struck down if the judges decide the states do not have standing.

[Forbes](#) provides several updates on federal student loan forgiveness following the hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) published an opinion piece arguing that colleges and universities must partner with the federal government to aid in pandemic recovery.

[The Hechinger Report](#) published an article examining how much does it cost to produce a community college graduate.

An online version of this Daily Briefing is available to view and print from the [Daily Briefing Section](#) of the [NCHER e-Library](#).

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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