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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 Reaches Settlement with Five Schools Accused on Improperly Distributing Financial Aid

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) that it had reached settlement agreements with five law schools that the agency said improperly disbursed federal financial aid to students in unaccredited programs. According to the Department, Albany Law School, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Brooklyn Law School, New England Law-

Boston, and New York Law School improperly distributed almost \$2.9 million in Title IV money to 92 students between July 2017 and June 2022. Under the terms of the settlements, the five institutions will reimburse the Department's "expected loss" for the allegedly misused funds, and three of them will pay fines, the highest being \$120,000. A Department spokesperson said the colleges are not reimbursing the agency for the full \$2.9 million, but did not provide a precise figure. The agreements do not constitute an admission of wrongdoing or liability by the schools.

New Institute for Higher Education Policy Analysis Shows Disparities in Unmet Need for Financial Aid

The Institute of Higher Education Policy (IHEP) released a new [blog post](#) that analyzed data from the U.S. Department of Education's 2019-20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study and found most students face a gap between what their families can afford and what they must pay to attend college. That gap, often referred to as "unmet need," is much larger for American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Latinx and/or Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students compared to White students, on average. Additionally, 90 percent of students who received a Pell Grant at least once faced almost \$10,000 of unmet need, on average, while 44 percent of students who never received Pell Grants were able to fully cover their financial need with resources to spare. The analysis said that affordability barriers are especially stark for students from the lowest income backgrounds, who would need to contribute almost 150 percent of their household income to cover the full-time cost of a four-year college, even after accounting for grant and scholarship aid.

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:

- [\(GENERAL-23-71\) Volume 7 - The Federal Pell Grant Program and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants \[2023-2024 Federal Student Aid Handbook\]](#)
- [\(ANN-23-05\) Online Training Course - Completing the 2024-25 FISAP](#)

General News

[The Wall Street Journal](#) reports that the federal student loan payment pause ends on Friday with first payments due in October, but borrowers are growing increasingly confused.

[The Hill](#) reports that tensions between House and Senate Republicans over the appropriations process has raised the odds that the federal government will shutdown on October 1st.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) provides further coverage of the recent report from Brown University that found one in four students never finish their college applications.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that community colleges have doubled down on dual enrollment as the programs are a consistent source of students and revenue for colleges with declining enrollment, especially if those students stay on after graduating from high school.

[The Hill](#) writes that several Republicans vying for their party's nomination for President pledged to eliminate the U.S Department of Education: what would that look like?

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