



Monday, September 25, 2023

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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](#).

## Senate Tees Up Consideration of Short-Term Continuing Resolution, House Tries to Advance Individual Appropriations Bills

This week, the U.S. Senate is expected to begin debate on H.R. 3935, which will include the legislative text of a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open past the start of the federal fiscal year on October 1st. While the legislation has not been released yet, it is expected to be a “clean” resolution without additional aid for Ukraine or disaster assistance in the hope that the House can clear it before Saturday. “We must work in a bipartisan fashion to keep our government open, avoid a shutdown, and avoid unnecessary pain on the American people,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said in announcing the vote. “This action will give the Senate the option to do just that.” The chamber is expected to vote on a motion to consider the bill on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and final passage of the legislation later in the week.

Over the weekend, the House leadership announced that the chamber would begin consideration of four individual appropriations bills - the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and RElated Agencies Appropriations Act, and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act - as opposed to considering a CR that lacks broad-based support. Although House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has publicly stated that he would like to pass a stop-gap funding bill by the end of the week, there is no CR scheduled for a vote at this point in the House. According to experts, the House Republican leadership is hoping that the advancement of the four spending bills early in the week will soften the opposition to a CR from some of the rank-and-file members. While Speaker McCarthy remains committed to reaching agreement with the band of roughly 15 hardline Republicans who have opposed a CR, that is becoming increasingly unlikely as the hardliners oppose deal-after-deal and centrists in competitive districts talk about making deals with Democrats. There is also the lingering threat that, should Speaker McCarthy not be able to wrangle his caucus to a consensus, a motion to vacate could be filed, calling for an end to his speakership.

For further coverage, see the following articles:

[The Hill: Senate Democrats put McCarthy in shutdown squeeze](#)

[Four spending bills readied for House floor amid stopgap uncertainty - Roll Call](#)

[Politico: McCarthy stares into the shutdown abyss](#)

## [The Hill: Congress stares down shutdown deadline](#)

# Federal Government Shutdown: What It Means For Higher Education

With the shutdown of the federal government becoming closer to reality, the higher education community may be wondering what a shutdown would mean for federal student aid programs. In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education published a [contingency plan](#) identifying the effects that a prolonged shutdown (defined by the Department as lasting longer than one week) would have on colleges and universities, state college access and success administrators, school districts, and other entities.

According to the Department, federal programs using mandatory funding such as Pell Grants and federal student loans would continue to operate through a government shutdown as their activities are not subject to the annual appropriations process. Federal discretionary programs with advance appropriations would also continue to operate through a shutdown as their funding is governed by last year's appropriations process. Federal discretionary programs without advance appropriations - the bulk of federal education programs administered by the agency - may have unobligated money known as "carryover" funds that could allow them to continue to carry out activities for some time, but their operations are likely to be impacted by a prolonged shutdown of over a month.

The true implications of the shutdown will be determined by whether the funding lapse lasts a few days or stretches further into the fall. For how many times the federal government has shut down, see this article from [The Hill](#).

## Department of Education Plans to Begin FAFSA Outreach This Week, Updates Federal Student Aid Estimator for 2024-2025

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) [announced](#) that it plans to begin the outreach campaign associated with the launch of the new 2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) this week. The campaign will be targeted to students who completed the 2023-24 FAFSA. While the official release date of the FAFSA has been delayed until December 2023, FSA has begun to prepare students, families, and higher education professionals for the release of the updated form consistent with the roadmap released earlier this year. The Department also stated that

additional resources and updated information will be coming soon. Related, FSA recently updated its [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#), a tool that helps students and families find out how much federal student aid they may be eligible to receive from the federal government. The estimator now calculates the Student Aid Index or SAI for the 2024-25 award year, not the Expected Family Contribution or EFC for the 2023-24 award year.

## 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:

- [\(GENERAL-23-79\) Updated SAIG Enrollment Agreement Available Oct. 23, 2023 – Required Steps to Receive 2024–25 ISIRs](#)
- [\(GENERAL-23-78\) Release of Revised Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)
- [\(GENERAL-23-77\) Compliance with the Change in Ownership 90-Day Advance Notification](#)

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## Member News



### **Edfinancial Services - Position Open - Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)**

The CCO is responsible for the administration of Edfinancial's compliance management program which includes the primary components of written policies and procedures, training, monitoring and corrective action, the goal of which is compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulation. The CCO reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer. Collaboration with other company departments is necessary to direct compliance issues to appropriate channels for investigation and resolution and will work with General Counsel as needed to resolve difficult legal compliance issues. The CCO communicates directly with the U.S. Department of Education and leads various projects for the Company.

Various other responsibilities of the CCO and the compliance department include, but are not limited to:

- Act as an independent review and evaluation body to ensure that compliance issues/concerns within the organization are being

- Coordinate external and internal quality assurance, compliance and audit reviews, and monitoring activities.
- Access records relevant to compliance and monitoring activities and report findings.
- Conduct surveys, inspections, audits, and investigation periodically to assess staff readiness and to identify where corrections are needed.
- Re-evaluate areas of previous deficiency to identify improvements.
- Present evaluations and reports to the CEO monthly and to Senior Management at least annually but typically quarterly.
- Investigate complaints and coordinate action plans with other departments.
- Utilize knowledge of the company's purpose and applicable statutes, rules and regulations, procedures, and practices, to respond to other departments and external requests for assistance or information.
- Track all developments in connection with new laws and regulations issued by federal and state governments, particularly those directly related to student loan servicers.

appropriately evaluated,  
investigated, and resolved.

Edfinancial is looking to hire a new CCO to start as soon as possible. Interested parties should send their resume to Wanda Hall, CCO, via email at [whall@edfinancial.com](mailto:whall@edfinancial.com).

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## General News

[Politico](#) reports that federal student loan payments resume on October 1st and what student and parent borrowers need to know.

[Forbes Advisor](#) reports on the 10 best states for recent graduates to pay off their student loan debt.

[The Indiana Capital Chronicle](#) reports on the Indiana State Budget Committee's approval of \$2.5 million to introduce 31 "success coaches" into higher education institutions across the state to help improve student retention.

[Forbes](#) publishes an opinion piece from Lumina Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer Jamie Meritosis discussing a new report revealing that we may be defining higher education's value too narrowly. The report provides evidence that Americans with college-level learning—even those who have not earned a degree—benefit in ways beyond enhanced earning power.

[Newsweek](#) reports that the U.S. Department of Education sent a second wave of emails to borrowers whose federal student loan debt has been forgiven under the Income-Driven Repayment Account Adjustment announced last year.

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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