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# **D** **AILY BRIEFING**

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**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

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## House Appropriations Committee Announces Markup Schedule; Labor/H Bill to be Considered on July 12

Today, the House Appropriations Committee [announced](#) that it will start marking up the 12 annual spending bills that make up the discretionary portion of the federal budget next week, with plans to move all of them out of subcommittee and full committee over a five-week span. The following markups may be of interest to the NCHER membership:

- Thursday, June 24: Subcommittee markup of the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.
- Tuesday, June 29: Full Committee markup of the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.
- Monday, July 12: Subcommittee markup of the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.
- Thursday, July 15: Full Committee markup of the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

## IHEP Report Examines Ways Institutions Can Increase Equity in Recruitment, Admissions, and Enrollment Practices

The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) recently released a [report](#) examining existing inequities in how college recruitment practices, admissions criteria, and application processes impact Black, Latino, Indigenous, and underrepresented Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students, those from low-income backgrounds, and first-generation students. The report shared recommendations for institutions to reexamine their strategies for addressing past and current inequities. “[Existing] policies judge applicants based on factors like whether and where their parents attended college, the resources and connections of the high school they attend, and their ability to afford expensive test preparation materials, rather than their academic potential,” the report stated. It also laid out the consequences of these findings, specifically that “white students are consistently overrepresented at colleges and universities in ways that cannot be explained by the demographics of nearby communities. This is especially true at selective institutions, which is troubling given that Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and underrepresented AAPI communities and students from low-income backgrounds who attend such institutions are more likely to graduate and experience stronger post-college outcomes than those who attend less selective institutions.”

The report recommends eight policies used by many colleges to address inequities:

- Colleges and universities should adjust their policies on recruiting students to focus on minority students, poor students, and students who may not be the colleges’ prime target.
- Rethink “demonstrated interest” policies.
- Eliminate early-decision programs, which require applicants who are admitted to enroll.
- End legacy admissions, which favor the children or other relatives of alumni.
- Eliminate the use of standardized tests.
- Eliminate questions about experience with the criminal justice system.
- Strengthen transfer pathways for students.
- Invest in need-based financial aid.

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

# NASFAA, NACUBO Send Letter to FSA Requesting Delay in New Requests for Single Audit Cycle

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) recently sent a [letter](#) to Federal Student Aid (FSA) Chief Operating Officer Richard Cordray urging him to delay new requests for the single audit cycle until 2022. In the letter, the groups point to the disruptions that colleges and universities experienced due to the coronavirus pandemic that might affect audit findings. The letter comes as a proposed change is in the works in which FSA would use colleges and universities' single audit as a way to demonstrate improvement in reducing improper payments in the Direct Loan program.

## U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcement was posted to Federal Student Aid's Knowledge Center:

- [TEACH Grant Closeout Information for 2020–21 Award Year \(EA ID: GRANTS-21-05\)| Knowledge Center](#)

## General News

[University Business](#) reports that nearly 40 percent of graduating students say they will continue their educations rather than try to enter a tumultuous job market, according to a new report released by BestColleges.com.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) continues to update its list of colleges and universities that will require students or employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports that data on the latest college term finds many of the enrollment trends that started in the fall are not letting up.

[PolitiFact](#) reviews the issue of whether student loan debt can be canceled by executive order by the President.

[Forbes](#) and [Business Insider](#) provide further coverage of the new data released by the U.S. Department of Education showing that most borrowers who apply under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program are denied relief.

[Yahoo Finance](#) reports on how to buy a first home if you are deep in student loan debt.

[CNBC](#) reports on how older millennials must balance student loans, saving for retirement, and their kids' college funds.

[ABC Money](#) reports on the \$1.6 trillion student loan crisis and what students can do about it. The article says that the student loan crisis is rooted in unprecedented social and economic complexities. Instead of accepting to pay a long-term price just to obtain a degree, students should seek a different approach to fund their education.

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