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# DAILY BRIEFING

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**Thursday, July 1, 2021**

## **NCHER Offices Closed on Monday for Independence Day**

The NCHER offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day. The offices will reopen for business on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

In Today's Issue...

## **NCHER Welcomes New Officers, Board of Directors**

## **NCHER Website to Receive Upgrade Starting at 5:00 pm Today, New User Registration Required Next Tuesday**

## **Senate and House Education Committee Leaders Urge President Biden to Extend Student Loan Payment Pause**

## **Department of Education Announces Implementation of TEACH Grant Changes**

# U.S Department of Education News

## General News

### NCHER Welcomes New Officers, Board of Directors

Today, NCHER welcomes its new leadership as well as new and returning members to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. For the upcoming fiscal year, Gene Hutchins (Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority) assumes the position of Board Chair, Christiana Thornton (The NHHEAF Network Organizations) becomes Chair-Elect, Scott D. Giles (Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority) will serve as Immediate Past-Chair, and Wendy McAlister (College Foundation Inc.) continues her service as the organization's Treasurer. Directors At-Large include: Bryan Ashton, Angela Baier, Jim Farha, Dan Fisher, Ron Gambill, Scott A. Giles, Steve Ham, Nathan Hench, Melissa Neal, and Jimmy Parker. Fred Lundquist will serve as the Collection Agency Liaison and Rob Lavet will continue to serve as the Private Lender Liaison to the Board. NCHER extends its appreciation to Scott D. Giles for his year as Chair and looks forward to a productive and successful year! The complete listing of the 2021-2022 NCHER Board of Directors can be found on the [NCHER website](#).

### NCHER Website to Receive Upgrade Starting at 5:00 pm Today, New User Registration Required Next Tuesday

The NCHER website is getting an upgrade so that it will provide you, our members, with a better experience. As part of the process, the website will be down for a period of time starting today, Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. During this time, which is over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend to reduce disruptions, the website will become completely unavailable and then may show as insecure (only http://). We are also moving to new hosting services and will take this opportunity to switch over to [ncher.org](http://ncher.org) as our primary website address. For the time being, it will redirect you to [ncher.us](http://ncher.us), until after we work out any bugs in the new website. We also plan to move our email to [ncher.org](mailto:ncher.org) addresses in the near future as well and will communicate those plans once we have a firm date and action plan.

Once the new website's IP address has fully resolved to the domain, security certificates will be issued, you will see a padlock in the website address field in your browser (<https://ncher.us>). Website mail services still need to be configured and post-migration testing must be completed by our web developers. This should be completed by 8:00 a.m. EDT on Tuesday July 6, 2021. At this time, you can register on the new website, so that you can continue to receive member benefits.

To register on the new NCHER website and continue to receive the NCHER *Daily Briefing*, navigate to <https://ncher.org> (again, it will redirect to <https://ncher.us> for the next several weeks) and look in the upper right-hand corner of the page. There you will find the registration link, labeled "Register." Click on the link. Please fill out the registration form with your information, keeping in mind that you must use your work email address as your username, and you must select your employer from the Organization/Company dropdown list for your registration to be approved. All fields marked with an asterisk are required. Please make note of your selected password and keep it in a safe place. Click the red "Register" button to submit your registration form.

Once your registration form has been received by NCHER and approved, a notification email will be sent to you by the website's administration account (the sending email address will be [info@ncher.us](mailto:info@ncher.us)) notifying you of the approval. You will then be able to login to the new website. If you do not receive the approval email, check your spam filters - they often catch automated email messages from new website's auto mailers, since they are being sent from a different mail server (IP address) than they were previously. You may try to log into the website any time after you receive the email or, if you do not receive one, on the next business day. If you are unable to log-in, please email us directly at [info@ncher.us](mailto:info@ncher.us) and we will help you get registered and access to the new NCHER website.

Thank you for your patience as we move to a new and better website!

## Senate and House Education Committee Leaders Urge President Biden to Extend Student Loan Payment Pause

Last night, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) and House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) sent a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden urging him to extend the pause on federal student loan payments "until early 2022." In the letter, the members stressed that the pause on student loan payments has been a lifeline for struggling borrowers during the health and economic crises and that borrowers need more time and support in order to navigate resuming repayments. In addition, the letter says that the U.S. Department of Education should use the extra time to provide borrowers "with an effective re-entry for repayment." The Biden Administration, they write, should "conduct a robust outreach campaign" to make sure borrowers are prepared to resume paying their loans and successfully enroll in income-based repayment plans that provide lower monthly payments. The Department should coordinate its work with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to develop evidence-based approaches to successfully reach borrowers and ensure that student loan servicers are adequately staffed and equipped to respond to borrower questions.

## Department of Education Announces Implementation of TEACH Grant Changes

Today, the U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) that it had implemented a new federal regulation that simplifies the paperwork requirements for the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program. The TEACH Grant program provides up to \$4,000 each year to college students training to be teachers on the condition that they teach for four years in a high-need field at an underserved school within eight years of graduating. A federal report revealed that more than 60 percent of the students who received grants had them converted to loans because they did not meet the requirements, such as annually submitting paperwork about the progress of their teaching service. The loans also included interest accumulated from the grant's disbursement date. "The changes announced today deliver much-needed improvements to the TEACH Grant," said Education Secretary Miguel Cardona in a statement. "And, through the American Families Plan, even greater investments will be made in the program to strengthen teacher pipelines into the profession, support teacher retention, and address critical teacher shortages so that every child across America can be taught by well-prepared and outstanding educators."

Under the new federal rule, begun under former Education Secretary Betsy DeVos:

- Recipients will not have their grants converted to loans if they do not certify that they have started teaching or intend to start within 120 days of graduating or withdrawing from school. They are also not required to certify their intent to teach within 120 days of leaving school.
- For those recipients who do not certify at the end of each year of teaching, their grants will not be converted to loans until they do not have enough time to complete the required service years.

- Recipients will be required to take TEACH Grant exit counseling. FedLoan Servicing, the TEACH Grant servicer, is required to send annual notifications to recipients that include service obligation requirements, timelines, documentation reminders, and more.
- The reconsideration process is now open to all TEACH Grant recipients whose grants have converted to loans.

## 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:

- [2021–2022 COD Technical Reference \(June 2021 Update\) \(EA ID: COD-21-05\)](#)

## General News

[Forbes](#) reports that student loan interest rates will rise starting today and what borrowers need to know.

[Fox News](#) reports that the Biden Administration is mulling several ways to ensure borrowers are supported when federal student loan repayments resume in September, as Congressional Democrats push to extend the pause in payments and urge the President to unilaterally act to cancel up to \$50,000 in debt per borrower.

[Times Higher Education](#) includes an op-ed by John Hopkins University School of Education PhD student Avery Davis who argues loan forgiveness is a poor solution to the student loan debt crisis in the United States. A one-time fix via executive order – which could be overturned by the next administration – fails both future students and taxpayers.

[Washington Monthly](#) reports that, while Washington, D.C. debates huge student loan debt relief packages, some colleges and universities are finding that modest loan forgiveness and support services can get students back to class and help schools' bottom line, too.

[The Washington Informer](#) reports that, as student loan debt plagues Black graduates, pleas for cancellation grow louder.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General released a report that found the agency took several unprecedented actions during and after the 2017 sale of Education Management Corporation's chain of for-profit institutions to the Dream Center Foundation.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports that, on Wednesday, the National Collegiate Athletics Association suspended its rules prohibiting student athletes from earning money off their name, image, and likeness, shattering a longstanding convention of the collegiate sports system. The organization moved quickly to enact the measure, as several state laws greenlighting student athlete compensation take effect today.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that nine out of 10 corporate recruiters expect demand for business school graduates to increase or remain stable over the next five years, according to a new survey of corporate recruiters from the Graduate Management Admission Council.

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