



# DAILY BRIEFING

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Monday, August 30, 2021

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## NCHER Daily Briefing to Publish on Abbreviated Schedule This Week

The *NCHER Daily Briefing* will publish on an abbreviated schedule consisting of today and Thursday while Congress is in recess.

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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](#).

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## Releases Performance Plan for Chief Operating Officer

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA)

released the [Annual Performance Plan](#) for Chief Operating Officer Richard Cordray, which establishes goals and levels of performance on several critical elements. The performance plan sets strategic objectives for FSA priorities such as implementation of the FAFSA Simplification Act and the FUTURE Act; returning student loans to repayment at the end of the payment pause; improving oversight and accountability of debt collectors and loan servicers; improving institutional oversight, investigations, and enforcement; and addressing challenges in implementing key initiatives like Public Service Loan forgiveness, borrower defense to repayment, total and permanent disability discharges, and income-driven repayment plans.

## TICAS Report Examines Funding Patterns for Public Four-Year Colleges

The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS) recently released a report titled, [Dismantling Dire Disparities: A Closer Look at Racially Inequitable Funding and Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities](#), which examined state and local support for public education from 2006 to 2018, national trends at public colleges and universities, and funding patterns at four-year institutions, especially at predominantly Latino and Black institutions.

The report shows that state disinvestment and the slow recovery in funding after the Great Recession severely impacted the disparities in resources available to more racially inclusive public four-year schools and their students. It also found that:

- Inadequate and inequitable funding persisted at public colleges and universities from 2006 to 2018, especially for community colleges that disproportionately educate Black and Hispanic students. As of 2018, state and local appropriations revenue had not recovered to 2006 levels at public four-year schools. While state support of public higher education continued its long-term downward trend, the burden of paying for college shifted onto students and families.
- During the 12-year period, disparities persisted among public four-year schools and fewer resources were available for colleges and universities that primarily educate Latina/o and Black students. These resource inequities undermine strategies to improve student success, college affordability, and racial equity. Colleges and universities that primarily educate Latina/o students faced persistent resource disparities and declines in per-student state appropriations. Colleges and universities that primarily educate Black students consistently received less per-student revenue, as tuition costs skyrocketed at these schools.

As a result of the findings, TICAS recommends that federal policymakers double the Pell Grant program, create a new federal-state funding partnership for public colleges, invest in proven strategies to help many more students graduate, and develop better data to support tracking, assessment, and strategy in closing equity gaps.

## U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcement was posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website:

- [Federal Perkins Loan Program – Updated Guidance on Mandatory Assignment of Federal Perkins Loans in Default for More than Two Years \(EA ID: GENERAL-21-53\)](#)
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## General News

[Fortune](#) reports on the four things that student and parent borrowers need to know about President Joe Biden's recent student loan forgiveness announcements. Related, [Forbes](#) reports on the three things that student loan cancellations means for borrowers.

[ABC News](#) covers an *Associated Press* interview with Seth Frotman of the Student Borrower Protection Center about the Biden Administration's decision to extend the student loan repayment moratorium and other issues facing the \$1.5 trillion industry.

[CNBC](#) reports that student loan forgiveness scams are on the rise and examines how borrowers can protect themselves.

[Forbes](#) reports on what happens if borrowers do not pay back their student loans.

[CNBC](#) reports that President Joe Biden has canceled \$9.5 billion in federal student loan debt yet forgiveness for all is not necessarily coming.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that the Western Senior College and University Commission's new database is tapping into a wide swath of federal information to better enable public scrutiny of the performance of the colleges and universities it monitors.

[Higher Ed Dive](#) reports that the U.S. Department of Education mistakenly provided too much federal coronavirus relief money to some colleges and universities that received funding according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) reports that Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker recently signed an executive order that requires all higher education students and employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. In an unusual move, the order applies to both public and private institutions in the state. More often, state-college systems have imposed such mandates on all of their campuses, or states have required vaccinations of elementary- and secondary-school employees and other public workers, but excluded higher education and private colleges.

[NPR](#) reports that, as colleges and universities, moved online during the COVID-19 crisis, many institutions of higher education are reporting increases, sometimes dramatic ones, in academic misconduct.

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

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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