



# DAILY BRIEFING

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Tuesday, September 7, 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 still 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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## House Education and Labor Committee Slated to Consider

## Budget Reconciliation Package on Thursday

The House Education and Labor Committee is expected to meet in executive session this Thursday, September 9th at 12:00 p.m., to consider its reconciliation bill that will carry out the requirements of the recently passed budget resolution. The committee's bill, which is expected to be released sometime tomorrow, will likely include increases to the maximum award for the Pell Grant program, create new grants to states for college persistence and success, and create new grants to provide free community college tuition and subsidized tuition at minority-serving institutions. If the markup is not finished on Thursday, the committee is expected to resume its work on Friday as House Democrats are seeking to finalize and pass the entire \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill before October 1st. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has directed committee leaders to resolve major disputes and work with their Senate counterparts this week on what will be included in the budget reconciliation bill. At the same time, several moderates in both the House and Senate have expressed concern about the recent growth in inflation and the size of the nation's debt and are pushing for a scaled-down package. For more coverage, see this article from [Politico](#).

## President Signs Executive Order Moving HBCU Initiative Back to Department of Education

Last week, President Joe Biden signed an [executive order](#) creating a new White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) housed at the U.S. Department of Education. The initiative is similar to the previous White House Initiative on HBCUs, which was located at the Department for more than a decade before being moved to the White House in 2017 by President Donald Trump. The new executive order aims to break down barriers for HBCUs to access federal funding and programs like research grants, coordinate efforts that ensure the institutions can respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, improve quality of information about HBCUs and students, and address efforts to promote student success and retention, among other goals. It also includes provisions included in the HBCU Partners Act, which codified the President's Board of Advisors on HBCU Policy and required federal agencies with relevant grants and programs to create an annual plan for better engaging and supporting HBCU participation. The agencies also have to measure, track, and report their progress to Congress. Under the new law and executive order, senior officials across the federal government, including the Secretary of Education, will advise the President on policies and programs that could advance equity and opportunity at HBCUs, and tackle "systemic

barriers for HBCU participation in federal government programs.”

## U.S. Department of Education News

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

The following announcements were posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals website:

- [Reminder - Identity Verification \(EA ID: GENERAL-21-54\)](#)
  - [Distance Education and Innovation Regulations - Correction](#)
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## General News

[Forbes](#) reports that the U.S. Department of Education is sending out mass notices to student and parent borrowers about the end of the current federal student loan pause, warning them that they will have to resume repayment soon.

[Fox Business](#) reports on why variable-rate student loan refinancing may be a smart move.

[MarketWatch](#) reports that borrowers were still having their wages seized over defaulted student loan debt, months after the federal government instructed the industry to pause this activity during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Fortune](#) reports on where the Democratic leadership in Congress stands on student loan forgiveness.

[Forbes](#) reports that federal student loan relief is ending, but there still has not been any wide-scale student loan cancellation. The article discusses what borrowers need to know – and what it means for their student loans.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that Complete College America, an advocacy organization focused on closing equity gaps in graduation rates, recently launched a new initiative to boost college completion for adult learners at predominantly and historically Black community colleges.

[University Business](#) reports on five ways that higher education will forever change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Inside Higher Ed](#) reports that colleges and universities are taking different approaches in terms of how they are using online learning in the second fall semester of the COVID pandemic.

[Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#) reports that a new study has revealed transportation assistance can help community college students succeed.

[NBC News](#) reports that 92 percent of college freshmen are optimistic about their lives according to a new NBC News/Generation Lab poll. But first-year students who responded to the online poll were less confident about the direction of the U.S. and the world.

[Business Insider](#) reports that the new White House executive order to make Historically Black Colleges and Universities more equitable and affordable does not include student loan debt cancellation.

[CNBC](#) reports that federal student loan bills are still on pause and outlines what borrowers can do with the extra money.

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