



Monday, March 25, 2024

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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](#).

## Congress Passes and President Signs Bipartisan Funding Package Into Law, Includes Funding for Department of Education

On Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate passed H.R. 2882, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2024, which includes funding for the U.S. Department of Education and completes the budget and appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2024. The President signed the legislation into law later that evening, just hours before the short-term Continuing Resolution was slated to run out.

As previously reported, the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act portion of the legislation provides a total of \$79 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Education, a reduction of \$500 million below the Fiscal Year 2023 enacted level and \$11 billion below the President's request. The legislation sets the maximum Pell Grant award at \$7,395, the same as the FY 2023 enacted level, funded by a combination of discretionary and mandatory funds; provides \$910 million for the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program and \$1.2 billion for Federal Work Study, the same as the FY 2023 enacted level; level funds both TRIO Programs and GEAR UP, which help first-generation college students prepare for, enter, and complete college; extends the authority for account maintenance fees paid to guaranty agencies for an additional year; and provides \$2.06 billion for federal student aid administrative expenses, an increase of \$25 million over FY 2023 enacted levels for the "continuation of student loan servicing activities, including supporting borrowers reentering repayment."

For additional coverage, see this article from [The Hill](#).

## Department of Education Announces New FAFSA Processing Errors

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Education [announced](#) that approximately 200,000 Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRS) it sent to colleges and universities had errors in the data. The Department said that its processing system for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) miscalculated the financial need of dependent students who reported assets, which created an inaccurate picture of how much aid those students might be eligible for. The agency said that, for a dependent student with assets, the ISIRs delivered prior to March 21, 2024, will be reprocessed by the Department. As an interim fix, schools and states can recalculate the Student Aid Index to develop a tentative aid package for an affected student without waiting to receive a reprocessed ISIR. The issue comes after several delays in FAFSA processing that have wreaked havoc on the college admissions cycle and frustrated colleges and

lawmakers across the country.

## House Appropriations Committee Chair Granger Steps Down from Post, Cites Final Appropriations Bills Not Likely to be Completed This Year

On Friday, House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-TX) announced that she intends to step down from her post and urged the House Republican Conference to select her replacement as soon as possible. Chairwoman Granger had previously announced her retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives. In her letter, Chairwoman Granger wrote that she plans to fulfill her “commitment and serve through the end of this Congress,” but that final appropriations bills do not usually get enacted until well into the next fiscal year - especially in an election year. “It is important that I do everything in my power to ensure a seamless transition before the Fiscal Year 2025 bill development begins in earnest,” she added. The push for new leadership comes as the House Appropriations Committee has already begun holding hearings to prepare for FY 2025, as many Republicans are anxious for another try at further restraining government funding and securing conservative policy changes.

## 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:

- [\(GENERAL-24-26\) Keeping You Informed – Updates to the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Information Area on Knowledge Center](#)
- [\(GENERAL-24-25\) 2024 Federal Student Aid Training Conference – To Be Held Virtually Dec. 3–6, 2024](#)  
MARCH 22, 2024
- [\(GENERAL-24-24\) Update on 2024-25 FAFSA Institutional Student Information Record \(ISIR\) Delivery](#)

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## General News

[The Hill](#) reports that Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) is defending her move to oust House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) over his support of the bipartisan spending package that cleared Congress last week.

[The Hill](#) reports that Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) announced that he intends to resign from the House on April 19th, shrinking the Republican majority's already razor-thin majority.

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