



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

Thursday, March 19, 2026

AGENDA



**First Step In Student Loan Partnership Announced
on Student Debt Collections...**
**As the Department Continues to Move Forward With Regulatory Changes
&
Congress Continues to Consider Legislative Proposals,
But Will Any of Them Actual Get Enacted**

- Federal Regulatory Update
- Federal Legislative Update
- Q&A



REGULATORY UPDATE

**BREAKING
NEWS**

The image features the words "BREAKING NEWS" in a large, bold, white, 3D sans-serif font. The letters are set against a vibrant red background. A series of white, curved lines radiate from the top right corner, creating a sense of motion and urgency. The text is positioned in the upper half of the frame, with "BREAKING" on the top line and "NEWS" on the bottom line. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the edges of the 3D letters and casting soft shadows on the red surface below.

Education Department plans to send part of student loan portfolio to Treasury

The financial agency would take responsibility for handling student loans in default under a new agreement.

BY REBECCA CARBALLO | 03/18/2026 07:09 PM EDT



INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & TREASURY

Phased Plan to Move Student Press Release

The U.S. Department of Education (Department) will soon make public an Interagency Agreement (IAA) that will take steps to move federal student loan operations over to the Treasury Department (Treasury) through a multi-phase process.

While the full details of the IAA are not yet available, the first phase of the process will be for Treasury to take over defaulted loan collection activities.

To begin the first phase of the latest partnership the Department and Treasury will have to update some of the walls in terms of servicing between the Department and Treasury and then work on melding key portions of the two organization together. Most notably, it seems likely that FSA's Default Resolution Group will need to be somehow aligned or taken into Treasury's Cross-servicing programs (note: FSA and student loans had previously been exempted). Leading to the operational responsibilities of prior DRG residing within Treasury.

HOT TOPICS

The image features the words "HOT TOPICS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Each letter is topped with a flame effect, and the entire text is reflected below it. The background is black.



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government




PR Proposed Rule

ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACCESS THROUGH DEMAND-DRIVEN WORKFORCE PELL: PELL GRANT EXCLUSION RELATING TO OTHER GRANT AID; AND WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS

A Proposed Rule by the Education Department on 03/09/2026



 This document has a comment period that ends in 20 days. (04/08/2026)

[SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

23 comments received. [View posted comments](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACCESS THROUGH DEMAND-DRIVEN WORKFORCE PELL: PELL GRANT EXCLUSION RELATING TO OTHER GRANT AID; AND WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS

SUMMARY

The Secretary of Education (Secretary) proposes to amend the regulations governing institutional eligibility, general provisions, and the Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) Program under title IV of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended (the title IV, HEA programs). The proposed regulations would implement statutory changes to the title IV, HEA programs included in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB), signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. The OBBB made numerous changes to the HEA, including changes to student eligibility requirements for the Pell Grant Program and the establishment of Workforce Pell Grants for students who enroll in a new type of eligible program called an “eligible workforce program,” intended to be a high-quality, performance-based, short-term program that supports America's workforce needs.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACCESS THROUGH DEMAND-DRIVEN WORKFORCE PELL: PELL GRANT EXCLUSION RELATING TO OTHER GRANT AID; AND WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Secretary proposes to codify two changes made to the HEA by the OBBB through these regulations. The two changes are:

Pell Grant Ineligibility When Other Aid Covers Full Cost.

The OBBB does not allow students to receive Pell Grant funds during any period for which they also receive grant or scholarship aid from non-Federal sources—including States, eligible institutions, or private sources—that equals or exceeds their cost of attendance (COA) for such period.

Workforce Pell Grants.

The OBBB allows students to receive Pell Grants for eligible workforce programs that are 150-599 clock hours in length or an equivalent number of credit hours and that take at least 8 weeks but less than 15 weeks of instructional time to complete (also referred to as “Workforce Pell Grants”). The OBBB establishes several other eligibility requirements for such programs, including approval by a Governor and the Secretary, and annual outcome metrics.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ACCESS THROUGH DEMAND-DRIVEN WORKFORCE PELL: PELL GRANT EXCLUSION RELATING TO OTHER GRANT AID; AND WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS

DIRECTED QUESTIONS

Written Arrangements To Provide Educational Programs (§ 668.5(c))

Ineligibility Due to Grant or Scholarship Assistance From Non-Federal Grants (§ 690.5)

Components Determined by Governors (§ 690.93)

Value-Added Earnings: Interim Value-Added Earnings Metric (§ 690.95(a))

Value-Added Earnings: Exclusion of Certain Students in the Completer Cohort (§ 690.95(a))

Value-Added Earnings: Process for Combining Multiple Cohorts (§ 690.95(h))

Value-Added Earnings: Programs Serving Out-Of-State Students (§ 690.95(k))



DEADLINE

A C C R E D I T A T I O N



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government



PR Proposed Rule

Intent To Establish Negotiated Rulemaking Committee

A Proposed Rule by the Education Department on 01/27/2026



PUBLISHED DOCUMENT: 2026-01620 (91 FR 3403)



PDF



Document
Details



Document
Dates



Table of
Contents

DOCUMENT HEADINGS

Department of Education
34 CFR Chapter VI
[Docket ID ED-2025-OPE-1042]
RIN 1840-AD82

AGENCY:

Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Department of Education Announces Negotiated Rulemaking to Reform and Strengthen America's Higher Education Accreditation System

JANUARY 26, 2026

The U.S. Department of Education (the Department) today announced its intent to establish the [Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization](#) (AIM) negotiated rulemaking committee to develop proposed regulations that would, among other goals, simplify the

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING TO REFORM & STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

AIM Committee Dates

The Committee will meet in-person at the Department in Washington, DC for two sessions on the following dates:

Session 1: April 13-17, 2026; and
Session 2: May 18-22, 2026.

Session times will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

IN OTHER NEWS





« back to advisory search results

ACTIVE

Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 05-25

Issue Date: November 25, 2025

Program Year: 2025

Fiscal Year: 2026

Expiration Date: Continuing

SUBJECT

Maximizing Innovation in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs

PURPOSE

To maximize innovation in the public workforce system and better serve job seekers and

DOCUMENTS

To preserve the formatting of this document, it has been converted to PDF (Portable Document Format) to retain its original layout.

 [View the Complete Document \(PDF\)](#) (576.67 KB)

 [Accessible Version \(PDF\)](#) (599.03 KB)

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS

**Final Regulations Published
10/31/2025**



**REIMAGINING
AND
IMPROVING
STUDENT EDUCATION
(RISE)
COMMITTEE**

**Pending Final Rule
May-June 2026**



just released

**ACCOUNTABILITY IN
HIGHER EDUCATION
AND ACCESS
THROUGH
DEMAND-DRIVEN
WORKFORCE PELL (AHEAD)
COMMITTEE**

**FEDERAL WORKFORCE PELL
8
OTHER PELL ISSUES**

**Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
March 9, 2026**



**ACCOUNTABILITY IN
HIGHER EDUCATION
AND ACCESS
THROUGH
DEMAND-DRIVEN
WORKFORCE PELL (AHEAD)
COMMITTEE**

**STUDENT TUITION AND
TRANSPARENCY SYSTEM
&
EARNINGS ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
March-April 2026**





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**HOUSE
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE
HEARING**



COMMITTEE ON
**EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE**
CHAIRMAN TIM WALBERG

**Committee Markup
(3/17/26)**

HOUSE EDUCATION & WORKFORCE COMMITTEE MARKUP

H.R 7892 - No Aid for Ghost Students Act of 2026

The bill would establish an “Identity Fraud Detection System” to review each application submitted under this section on or after October 1, 2026, to determine whether the application presents a reasonable suspicion of identity fraud.

H.R 7893 – FAFSA Verification Efficiency Act

The bill would require the Secretary of Education, in cooperation with the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, shall verify the social security number and citizenship status of any individual that is required to be provided to the Secretary for Federal student aid under sections 483, 484(a), and 494, and shall enforce the following conditions”.

SENATE HELP COMMITTEE MARKUP

H.R 7892 -

This bill requires standardized financial aid terminology and offer forms.

Specifically, the Department of Education (ED) must develop standard terminology and a format for financial aid offer forms based on recommendations from representatives of certain groups, including students, veterans, and institutions of higher education (IHEs).

The consumer-friendly form must include specified details and disclosures, including the estimated cost of attendance, the net price that a student or family is estimated to pay, and the terms and conditions of financial aid.

In addition, ED must (1) test the form with representatives of students, students' families, IHEs, secondary school and postsecondary counselors, and nonprofit consumer groups; and (2) use the results to develop the final form.

Each IHE that participates in federal student aid programs must (1) use the standard form when offering financial aid to students, and (2) use the standard terminology and definitions developed by ED for all communications related to financial aid offers.

**HOUSE
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE
HEARING**

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Health, Education
Labor & Pensions

Executive Session

**Committee Markup
(2/26/26)**

SENATE HELP COMMITTEE MARKUP

S. 3747 - Home School Graduation Recognition Act

A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, and for other purposes. (Agreed to by Roll Call Vote, 23-0)

SENATE HELP COMMITTEE MARKUP

S. 1558 - Understanding the True Cost of College Act of 2025

This bill requires standardized financial aid terminology and offer forms.

Specifically, the Department of Education (ED) must develop standard terminology and a format for financial aid offer forms based on recommendations from representatives of certain groups, including students, veterans, and institutions of higher education (IHEs).

The consumer-friendly form must include specified details and disclosures, including the estimated cost of attendance, the net price that a student or family is estimated to pay, and the terms and conditions of financial aid.

In addition, ED must (1) test the form with representatives of students, students' families, IHEs, secondary school and postsecondary counselors, and nonprofit consumer groups; and (2) use the results to develop the final form.

Each IHE that participates in federal student aid programs must (1) use the standard form when offering financial aid to students, and (2) use the standard terminology and definitions developed by ED for all communications related to financial aid offers.

**WHAT
COULD
BE
NEXT?**



