



**FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE
&
REGULATORY
UPDATE**

Thursday, April 9, 2026

AGENDA



**Accreditation, Innovation and Modernization Federal Negotiated Rulemaking
Workforce Pell Grants NPRM Submission Deadline
Earnings Accountability E.O. 12866 Meetings Schedule
&
WIOA Reauthorization**

- 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.



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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.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/27/2026-01620/intent-to-establish-negotiated-rulemaking-committee>



Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher Education 2026

This page provides information regarding the Department's negotiated rulemaking in 2026 to make regulatory changes for the programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

View our [Frequently Asked Questions about Negotiated Rulemaking for Higher Education](#) for more information about negotiated rulemaking in general.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Non-Federal Negotiators

Students, student loan borrowers, or groups representing them

Primary: Magnus Noble, University of Illinois Springfield

Alternate: Ryan Hofer, National University of Natural Medicine

Veterans and U.S. military service members, or groups representing them

Primary: Julie Howell, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Alternate: Colonel Stuart B. Helgeson, Valley Forge Military College

Organizations representing workforce development needs, professional associations or employers

Primary: Siri Terjesen, Florida Atlantic University

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Non-Federal Negotiators

Legal assistance organizations, consumer advocates, and civil rights organizations that represent students or borrowers

Primary: Rabbi A.D. Motzen, Agudath Israel of America

Public Institutions of Higher Education, including Community Colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities

Primary: Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (Ret.)

Alternate: Luciano DeCastro, University of Iowa

Private Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education, including institutions with a religious mission, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities

Primary: William L. Hathaway, Regent University

Alternate: David Eubanks, Furman University

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Non-Federal Negotiators

Proprietary Institutions of Higher Education, as defined in 34 CFR 600.5

Primary: Jeffrey Bodimer, Post University

Alternate: David Cohen, Five Towns College

State officials, including Governors, State higher education executive officers, State authorizing agencies and State attorneys general

Primary: Raymond Rodrigues, State University System of Florida

Alternate: Michael Duffey, Ohio Department of Higher Education

Institutional accrediting agencies recognized by the Secretary under 34 CFR part 602

Primary: Michale S. McComis, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

Alternate: Heather F. Perfetti, Middle States Commission on Higher Education

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Non-Federal Negotiators

Programmatic accrediting agencies recognized by the Secretary under 34 CFR part 602

Primary: Rebecca A. Busacca, National Accreditation Commission

Alternate: Brian Kessler, Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine

Organizations representing taxpayers and the public interest

Primary: Michael Shires, America First Policy Institute

Alternate: Jim Blew, Defense of Freedom Institute

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

Non-Federal Negotiators

Nascent accreditation organizations not currently recognized by the Secretary under 34 CFR part 602, and third-party organizations that measure outcome-based quality assurance standards for postsecondary education that are aligned with established industry standards

Primary: Mark Becker, Commission for Public Higher Education

Alternate: Jade Foster, National Council for AI Workforce Program Accreditation

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity

Primary: Jennifer Blum, Blum Higher Education Advising, PLLC

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Background on E.O. 14279 – Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education

Executive Order 14279, titled “Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education,” issued on April 23, 2025, by President Trump, directs the Secretary to take several actions related to the recognition of accrediting agencies or associations by the Department. Some of these actions require changes to existing regulations.

The goal of these regulatory changes is to realign the Secretary’s criteria for recognition of accreditors to promote high-quality, high value, and affordable education for students that—

- Promotes such academic programs and activities at higher education institutions that are focused on student outcomes and are free from unlawful discrimination and other violations of Federal law;
- Reduces barriers that limit competition, innovations, and new education models that advance credential and degree completion;
- Holds institutions accountable for discrimination and other unlawful acts; and
- Advances academic freedom, intellectual inquiry, and student learning by ensuring that accreditation requires that institutions support and prioritize intellectual diversity among faculty.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Background on E.O. 14279 – Reforming Accreditation to Strengthen Higher Education

Specifically, the Executive Order directs the Secretary to—

- Resume recognition of new accrediting agencies to foster competition and expand institutional options; and
- Mandate that accreditors require member institutions to use data on program-level student outcomes to improve such outcomes, without reference to race, ethnicity, or sex.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Reducing Regulatory Burden

Reduce overall regulatory burden for all accrediting agencies

- 600.11(a)(1)(ii) modified and 600.11(a)(1)(iii) added to ease restrictions on institutions changing accreditors.
- 600.11(b) modified to ease restrictions on institutions having multiple accreditors.
- 602.12(a) modified to eliminate the two-year rule and clarify conditions for initial recognition.
- 602.16(g), formerly (f), modified to limit additional standards to those consistent with establishing institutional quality.
- 602.17(b) and (e) modified to allow additional flexibility in the accreditation process.
- 602.20(e) modified to clarify that binding arbitration is allowed, and that arbitration must be fair and impartial.
- 602.22(a)(1)(ii)(B) modified to add “substantive” to changes in legal status that must be evaluated.
- 602.30(a) modified to remove the requirement that applications for renewal of recognition must be submitted 24 months in advance.
- 602.31, formerly 602.32, modified to eliminate (b), that required letters of support with applications.
- 602.31, formerly 602.32(d), modified to remove requirements for multiple site visits and remove detailed requirements for site visits.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Reducing Regulatory Burden

Streamline the recognition process and utilize a risk-based review of accrediting agencies

- 602.30 was previously reserved. The previous section 602.31 was renamed as 602.30. The previous section 602.32 was split into 602.31 and 602.32. The new sections 602.31 and 602.32 were rewritten to enable risk-based review of agencies.
- 602.31(g), (h), and (i) modified to speed Department evaluation of applications.

Clarify the statutory limitation on the Secretary's authority to recognize only those accrediting agencies whose institutions and/or programs actively participate in a Federal program

- 602.10(a) and (b) modified to clarify that agencies will only be recognized if agency accreditation is a material condition of eligibility for institutions to participate in Federal programs.
- 602.10(c) added to clarify requirements for initial recognition.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Reducing Regulatory Burden

Require accrediting agencies to administer their standards, policies, and procedures in a manner that minimizes unnecessary compliance costs and administrative burdens on accredited institutions, including by avoiding duplicative reporting, excessive documentation requirements, and prescriptive processes that do not demonstrably advance educational quality or student achievement

- 602.15 modified by adding (a)(3) and (c) requiring cost effectiveness and openness to low-cost models.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Reducing Regulatory Burden

Eliminate regulations that are not required by statute, thereby reducing burdens on accreditors

- 602.15(a)(2), (3), and (4) modified by removing requirements not in statute.
- 602.16(a)(2)(i) is not required by statute and was removed.
- 602.17(a)(3) is not required by statute and was removed.
- 602.17(h) is not required by statute and was removed.
- 602.21(b), (c), and (d) are not required by statute and were removed.
- 602.22(b), former (c)(1)-(5), (f) and (g) were removed.
- 602.23(f) is not required by statute and was removed.
- 602.25, (f)(1)(iii) and (f)(1)(iv) are not required by statute and were removed.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Accreditor Integrity

Discourage identification of agencies as having regional scope

- 602.11 modified by adding that recognition does not limit the geographic scope of agencies.
- 602.12 modified to remove a reference to geographic areas, and (c) was added to remove geographic constraints.

Strengthen the fiscal and administrative requirements for an agency to demonstrate that it is “separate and independent” from any related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization

- 602.14(b)(2) modified to require that representatives of the public on an agency board are not current or former suppliers of higher education services or professionals in the field in which the agency conducts accreditation.
- 602.14 (b)(3), (b)(4), and former (b)(5) modified by strengthening language on conflicts of interest. (b)(5) was renumbered as (b)(6).
- 602.14 (b)(5) and (b)(7)-(b)(14) added to strengthen language on “separate and independent.”
- 602.14(c) that allowed sharing of resources in some circumstances was eliminated.
- 602.14(d) and (e) that regulated the Department’s option to grant waivers to the “separate and independent” requirements are eliminated.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Accreditor Integrity

Address “credential-inflation” by forbidding collusion between accrediting agencies and any related, associated, or affiliated trade association or membership organization

- 602.31, formerly 602.32(e), modified to allow the Department to view as a negative factor anticompetitive behavior including actions that limit entry into a profession.

Protect taxpayers and address the college affordability issue by requiring institutions to presume the transferability of credits earned at another institution toward general education requirements, not only as electives;

- 602.24(e)(3) added to require a presumption of credit transferability.

Ensure that accreditors are not allowed to engage in anticompetitive behavior;

- 602.13 was previously reserved. The section now states that recognition does not confer immunity from antitrust laws.
- 602.15(d) added to ensure standardization of applications and data templates to ease the process of changing accreditors.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Accreditor Integrity

Protect taxpayers and students by adding requirements regarding misrepresentation and fraud

- 602.16(a)(5) and (a)(6) added to require integrity and transparency and controls against fraud and misrepresentation in financial aid practices and the administration of Title IV programs.

Ensure transparency and consistency;

- 602.18(d) moved to 602.20 and modified to remove the ability of an agency to allow an institution to be out of compliance with standards for more than three years, and for an agency to allow an institution to be out of compliance if compliance would cause undue hardship to students .
- 602.20(h) added to require policies to restore accreditation in case of material error.
- 602.23(d) modified to require that agencies require institutions to publicly disclose enforcement actions.
- 602.26(g) added regarding violations of an agency's own policies.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Legality and Constitutionality

Require accrediting agencies to ensure that all standards, policies, and procedures comport with, and require institutional and program compliance with, all Federal and State laws, including the prohibition of preferential treatment based on protected characteristics, such as race-based scholarships or programs, and preferential hiring or promotion practices

- 602.16(a)(1)(vi) modified to add that student support services must be provided in accordance with Federal law.
- 602.16(a)(1)(vii) modified to add that student recruiting must be conducted in accordance with Federal law.
- 602.16(a)(7) added to require that standards may not direct institutions to violate Federal or State law.
- 602.23 modified by adding (h)-(j) that requires agencies to require institutions to follow Federal and State law.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Legality and Constitutionality

Require accrediting agencies to ensure that accredited public institutions' policies, practices, and procedures comport with the First Amendment as interpreted by Federal courts, including with respect to viewpoint nondiscrimination, religious nondiscrimination, and speech protections

- 602.16 modified by adding (a)(8) that requires that agency standards allow public institutions to fulfill their obligations under the First Amendment.
- 602.18(b)(4) added to ensure viewpoint and ideological neutrality in policy implementation, with protection for religious institutions.

Expand current regulations on faculty standards to include support for and appropriate prioritization of intellectual diversity amongst faculty in order to advance academic freedom, intellectual inquiry, and student achievement and learning outcomes

- 602.16 modified by adding (a)(2) that requires standards to ensure academic freedom under which a range of academic perspectives may be expressed.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Legality and Constitutionality

Direct accrediting agencies to refrain from interfering with institutional governance decisions that fall within the rightful purview of State governments, boards of trustees, or similar governing bodies, limiting their role to advisory purposes

- 602.23 modified by adding (j) that prohibits review or evaluation of matters within the authority of State governments..

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Student Outcomes

Require accrediting agencies to use program-level student outcomes to demonstrate achievement by its institutions and/or programs and identify minimum expectations related to return on investment (ROI) of tuition, completion rates, placement rates and/or State licensing exam success

- 602.16(a)(1)(i) modified to require that standards address student success at the program level and that student success must be measured objectively and may include measures of economic return relative to tuition and fees.
- 602.16(a)(1)(xii) added to require meaningful, objective measures of student learning.
- 602.16(a)(3) added to require agencies to permit the use of standardized assessments of student learning.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Affordability

Provide relief for students and taxpayers who have suffered from increasing tuition by allowing greater institutional flexibility to control costs and to make cost efficiency a factor that accreditors consider;

- 602.15(a)(3) added to require training of agency staff to encourage low-cost models that can provide high quality education.
- 602.16(a)(1)(iii) modified to clarify standards for faculty, including sufficiency, qualifications, regular review, flexibility of appointment process, and academic freedom.
- 602.16(a)(1)(iv) modified to add that evaluation of facilities should include cost/benefit analysis.
- 602.16(a)(1)(v) modified to require appropriate resourcing for institutional conditions.
- 602.16(a)(1)(vi) modified to add that evaluation of student support services should include cost/benefit analysis.
- 602.16(a)(1)(viii) modified to add that program length must be appropriate.
- 602.16(a)(1)(xiii) modified to add that staff should be trained on different education modalities with emphasis on cost effectiveness.
- 602.16(a)(4) added that standards must be administered in a manner that minimizes costs.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Affordability

Provide relief for students and taxpayers who have suffered from increasing tuition by allowing greater institutional flexibility to control costs and to make cost efficiency a factor that accreditors consider;

- 602.15(a)(3) added to require training of agency staff to encourage low-cost models that can provide high quality education.
- 602.16(a)(1)(iii) modified to clarify standards for faculty, including sufficiency, qualifications, regular review, flexibility of appointment process, and academic freedom.
- 602.16(a)(1)(iv) modified to add that evaluation of facilities should include cost/benefit analysis.
- 602.16(a)(1)(v) modified to require appropriate resourcing for institutional conditions.
- 602.16(a)(1)(vi) modified to add that evaluation of student support services should include cost/benefit analysis.
- 602.16(a)(1)(viii) modified to add that program length must be appropriate.
- 602.16(a)(1)(xiii) modified to add that staff should be trained on different education modalities with emphasis on cost effectiveness.
- 602.16(a)(4) added that standards must be administered in a manner that minimizes costs.
- 602.17(h) added to encourage institutional innovation.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Other

Other changes were suggested to update and simplify

- 602.2 updated to state that notices are available on the Department website.
- 602.3 updated to define and use the term “Institution” instead of “Institution of Higher Education.”
- 602.3 definition of “Related, associated, or affiliated trade association” added.
- 602.15(a)(5) modified to make terminology consistent.
- 602.16(a)(1) modified to better reflect the underlying statute.
- 602.18(c) modified for clarity.
- 602.20(a)(4) modified to correct confusing language.
- 602.22(a)(1)(ii) modified to remove the qualifier “high-impact, high-risk changes.”
- 602.23(c)(1) and (3) modified to include preaccreditation and to clarify treatment of complaints.
- 602.24(b) modified regarding site visits.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Other

Other changes were suggested to update and simplify

- 602.24(c) modified by making adjustments to language regarding teach-outs.
- 602.24(d) modified by adding additional detail about closed institutions.
- 602.26(b), (c), (d), and (e) modified to require that written notice provide a clear explanation of accreditation decisions.
- 602.26(d) modified to require changes to agency websites instead of public written notice.
- 602.27(a)(1) modified to allow regular updates instead of annual updates.
- 602.28(d) edited for clarity. ○ 602.30 (f)(1) modified by making a technical change.
- 602.30(f)(1) modified regarding redaction of material in submissions.
- 602.32 split into two sections, one for procedures for submitting applications for recognition or renewal of recognition, and another for expansion of scope and other applications. This was accomplished by renaming 602.31 as 602.30, which was previously reserved, part of 602.32 was renamed as 602.31, and the remaining part of 602.32 retained the same name.
- 602.33 modified by making technical changes.

ACCREDITATION, INNOVATION, AND MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF INITIAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Initial Draft Proposal – Other

Other changes were suggested to update and simplify

- 602.24(c) modified by making adjustments to language regarding teach-outs.
- 602.24(d) modified by adding additional detail about closed institutions.
- 602.26(b), (c), (d), and (e) modified to require that written notice provide a clear explanation of accreditation decisions.
- 602.26(d) modified to require changes to agency websites instead of public written notice.
- 602.27(a)(1) modified to allow regular updates instead of annual updates.
- 602.28(d) edited for clarity. ○ 602.30 (f)(1) modified by making a technical change.
- 602.30(f)(1) modified regarding redaction of material in submissions.
- 602.32 split into two sections, one for procedures for submitting applications for recognition or renewal of recognition, and another for expansion of scope and other applications. This was accomplished by renaming 602.31 as 602.30, which was previously reserved, part of 602.32 was renamed as 602.31, and the remaining part of 602.32 retained the same name.
- 602.33-602.37 modified by making technical changes.

HOT TOPICS

The image features the words "HOT TOPICS" in a bold, red, 3D sans-serif font. Each letter is topped with a flame effect, with yellow and orange flames rising from the top edges. The text is set against a solid black background. Below the main text, there is a faint, semi-transparent reflection of the words, creating a mirrored effect. The overall aesthetic is fiery and attention-grabbing.



Pending EO 12866 Regulatory Review

RIN: [1840-AE06](#)

Title: Accountability

Agency/Subagency: ED / OPE

Legal Deadline: Statutory

International Impacts: No

Pandemic Response: No

Received Date: 03/24/2026

Stage: Proposed Rule

Economically Significant: Yes

Affordable Care Act [Pub. L. 111-148 & 111-152]: No

Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, [Pub. L. 111-203]:
No

[View EO 12866 Meetings](#)

[Request EO Meeting](#)

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
E.O. 12866 REGULATORY REVIEW**

What Information Should Be Shared In The Meeting

Your perspectives in these meetings are most useful to the Federal government if they are evidence-based or reflect your own lived experiences with government policies. For instance, you might share how a regulatory action could impact your family's life, or the way that your small business works.

You may also point out issues of importance, emphasize the value of alternative approaches and/or substitute language, and help decision-makers appreciate the strengths of other solutions than those proposed. If you are personally affected by an issue in a regulatory action or work with people who are affected, you may also use this meeting as an opportunity to highlight your first-hand experiences.

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
E.O. 12866 REGULATORY REVIEW**

Scheduled Meetings

April 10th

11:00 AM – Beacon and Landmark Colleges

11:30 AM – The Institute for College Access and Success

April 13th

2:30 – Lancaster School of Cosmetology & Therapeutic Bodywork

3:00 – Mid-Atlantic Association of Career Schools

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
E.O. 12866 REGULATORY REVIEW**

Scheduled Meetings

April 16th

1:00 PM – Academy of National Therapy Inc.

April 24th

11:00 AM – Career Education Colleges and Universities

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
E.O. 12866 REGULATORY REVIEW**

Pending Meetings

Career Schools Private Education Network

TEN Government Strategies

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 	11
12	13 	14	15	16 	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

AIM Committee Negotiated Rulemaking

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

AIM Committee Negotiated Rulemaking

IN OTHER NEWS





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING TO BECOME U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Announcement

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is transferring the Department of Education's Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) headquarters building in D.C. to the Department of Energy to save on maintenance costs, with the move scheduled for August 2026. The Department of Education will relocate its remaining staff to 500 D Street SW.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING TO BECOME U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Key Details of the Sale

LBJ Building Transfer:

The LBJ Building (400 Maryland Avenue SW) is being handed over to the Department of Energy. This move aims to save \$350 million in deferred maintenance costs, as the Energy Department's current facility, the James V. Forrestal Building, is outdated.

Education Department Relocation:

The Department of Education employees are slated to move to a smaller space at 500 D Street SW by August 2026.

Downsizing Factors:

The Department of Education reduced its staff from 4,000 to 2,000, with many functions and student loan portfolios transferred to other agencies, leaving the main building 70% vacant.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BUILDING TO BECOME U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Key Details of the Sale

Separate Property Sale:

A separate, vacant federal building was sold to Dalian Development for roughly \$24 million, destined for conversion into housing, retail, and entertainment spaces.

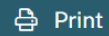
Broader Real Estate Changes:

The GSA is actively selling underutilized federal properties to reduce the government's real estate footprint, including a recently published (and subsequently removed) list of hundreds of properties in the D.C. area.



[Knowledge Center Home](#) > [Library](#) > [Electronic Announcements](#) > [Enforcement priorities related to audited financial statement requirements under §668.23\(d\)\(1\)](#)

(GENERAL-26-18) Enforcement priorities related to audited financial statement requirements under §668.23(d)(1)



Print

POSTED DATE: March 20, 2026

AUTHOR: Federal Student Aid

ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT ID: GENERAL-26-18

SUBJECT: Enforcement priorities related to audited financial statement requirements under §668.23(d)(1)

On Oct. 31, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published *Federal Register* notice [88 FR 74568](#) that amended regulations related to financial responsibility, administrative capability, certification procedures, and Ability-to-Benefit. Through this Electronic Announcement, ED is providing notice

Tags

Electronic Announcements

General

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES RELATED TO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER §668.23(D)(1)

Overview

On Oct. 31, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) published Federal Register notice 88 FR 74568 that amended regulations related to financial responsibility, administrative capability, certification procedures, and Ability-to-Benefit. Through this Electronic Announcement, ED is providing notice regarding its enforcement priorities under § 668.23(d)(1) which discusses audited financial statements which, in collaboration with other regulatory requirements, enables ED to make a determination of an institution's financial responsibility.

ED has discretion regarding the use of its enforcement authority and believes that taking enforcement action against institutions for failure to comply with certain aspects of § 668.23(d)(1) would not be appropriate due to our limited resources nor would taking action advance the national interest or the policy priorities of ED. We also note that institutions of higher education have raised practical challenges associated with transitioning their fiscal year to the new standard and implementing other changes to their financial statements by the originally established effective date. Accordingly, as discussed below, ED has no plans to take enforcement actions under certain specific provisions in § 668.23(d)(1) that went into effect July 1, 2024. ED may also take action to amend § 668.23(d)(1) in a future rulemaking

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES RELATED TO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER §668.23(D)(1)

Summary of § 668.23(d)(1) Provisions Subject to Delayed Enforcement

Fiscal-Year Alignment with IRS Annual Return(s)

Enforcing the requirement for financial statements submitted to ED for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2024, to match the fiscal year end of the entity's annual return(s) filed with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will not be a priority until at least fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2027. Institutions may continue submitting audited financial statements that follow their existing institutional fiscal year, even if that fiscal year does not match the reporting period of IRS annual returns. ED expects that this delay will give institutions additional time to match their fiscal year end dates with their IRS return(s). For institutions that have already aligned their financial statements fiscal years with their IRS return(s), no additional action is required.

ED-Requested or ED-Required Fiscal Years

Enforcing the requirement for submission of acceptable financial statements for a school's latest complete fiscal year (or such years as requested by ED or required by this part) will not be a priority until at least July 1, 2027. ED will not require institutions to provide audited financial statements covering additional or ED-specified fiscal years under this new authority during the delay period. Existing authorities outside the Oct. 31, 2023, rule remain unchanged..

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES RELATED TO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER §668.23(D)(1)

Summary of § 668.23(d)(1) Provisions Subject to Delayed Enforcement

Expanded Applicability of Financial Statements Submissions

Enforcing the requirement that federal student aid functions performed by that entity are covered in the submission of financial statements will not be a priority until at least July 1, 2027. Institutions may follow the previous version of § 668.23(d)(1) regarding which entities' financial statements must be included or consolidated in submissions during the delay period.

Required Disclosure When No Related-Party Transactions Exist

Enforcing the requirement that, if there are no related party transactions during the audited fiscal year or related party outstanding balances reported in the financial statements, management must add a note to the financial statements to disclose this fact will not be a priority until at least July 1, 2027. Institutions do not need to add a specific note disclosing when there are no related party transactions for fiscal years covered by the delay. Institutions must continue to follow applicable Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) requirements.

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES RELATED TO AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER §668.23(D)(1)

Summary of § 668.23(d)(1) Provisions Subject to Delayed Enforcement

The enforcement de-prioritization described in this announcement does not alter ED's expectation for institutions to submit annual compliance and financial statements audits to ED. Institutions must continue to submit these audits in accordance with the requirements under § 668.23 as enforcing the audit requirement remains an enforcement priority for ED. Additionally, all other amendments to the financial responsibility regulations promulgated in the Oct. 31, 2023, Federal Register remain enforcement priorities for ED. We appreciate your continued partnership as we implement these regulations. Please continue to reference the Knowledge Center for updates.

**TIME
EXPIRED**



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](#)

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PR PROPOSED RULE

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Accountability in Higher Education and Access through Demand-Driven Workforce Pell: Pell Grant Exclusion Relating to Other Grant Aid; and Workforce Pell Grants

Posted by the Department of Education on Mar 9, 2026

Closed for Comments

Comment Period Ended: Apr 8, 2026 at 11:59 PM EDT

- Document Details
- Document Comments 257

Docket (ED-2026-OPE-0133) / Document

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**HOUSE
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE**



**Reauthorization of the
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

PRESS RELEASES

Education & Workforce Committee Unveils WIOA Reauthorization

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 6, 2026



Today, Education and Workforce Committee Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI) introduced *A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026*—legislation that makes critical updates to the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA).

“The workforce is evolving rapidly, and legislation designed over a decade ago is no longer meeting today’s demands. This bill modernizes a struggling and underutilized workforce development system, delivering reforms that strengthen participant outcomes and ensure greater accountability for taxpayer dollars. This is a win for employers, job seekers, and taxpayers alike,” **said Chairman Walberg.**

A STRONGER WORKFORCE FOR AMERICA ACT

H.R. -- ????

A Stronger Workforce for America Act of 2026:

- **Removes Silos**
This bill moves adult education to the Department of Labor—making it easier to connect adult education to apprenticeships, sector partnerships, and employer-led training especially as artificial intelligence reshapes skill demands.
- **Upgrades the Skills of More Americans**
This bill dedicates funding toward upskilling workers through “individual training accounts” (ITAs), on-the-job learning, and other employer-led and industry relevant initiatives. It also helps a currently employed workforce gain new skills to avoid displacement and advance their careers.
- **Delivers Greater Accountability and Program Quality**
This legislation strengthens the law’s accountability system—holding states and local workforce boards responsible for delivering positive outcomes for workers and job seekers

A Stronger Workforce For America Act @EdWorkforceCmte Leaders Foxx and Scott



BACKGROUND

- When the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) was enacted in 2014, it made crucial improvements to streamline the maze of federal workforce development programs and enhance accountability through a single set of performance metrics. However, almost a decade later, significant challenges persist that impede the workforce system's ability to provide high-quality services to job seekers and employers.

THE PROBLEM

- Employers are struggling to fill the jobs they need to grow their businesses and meet the upskilling needs of workers, hampering critical industries and undermining our economic competitiveness. The workforce system under WIOA, which exists to address these challenges, needs reform to ensure workers—including those without a bachelor's degree—can access good-paying jobs.

THE SOLUTION

- *A Stronger Workforce for America Act* makes critical updates to WIOA that will increase the amount of skills development provided under the law, strengthen connections between employers and the workforce system, and put more Americans on the pathway to a successful career.
- Specifically, *A Stronger Workforce for America Act*:
 - ★ Upgrades the skills of the American workforce by dedicating 50 percent of the adult and dislocated worker funding towards upskilling workers and related wrap-around supports.



THE SOLUTION CONT'

- ★ Creates an emphasis on employer-led initiatives that equip workers with the skill sets to fill jobs in critical industries and help the currently employed workforce upskill to avoid displacement and advance their careers.
- ★ Ensures workers displaced from their jobs through no fault of their own can access robust skill development services, including through "individual training accounts."
- ★ Increases accountability, quality, and efficiency by streamlining the "eligible training provider list" to ensure programs are aligned with the skill and hiring demands and fully implementing the performance accountability system to hold states and local workforce boards accountable for achieving positive outcomes for program participants.
- ★ Strengthens pathways to continue economic opportunity by emphasizing work-based learning and apprenticeship for youth, codifying a program to help individuals released from incarceration transition back to employment, and enhancing workforce programs at community colleges that align with in-demand jobs.
- ★ Fuels innovation for a skills-based economy by creating a pilot authority for targeted state and local boards to reimagine their workforce systems and providing technical assistance to employers on implementing skills-based hiring practices.

BOTTOM LINE

This bipartisan legislation provides essential updates and improvements to WIOA that will strengthen the workforce development system, encourage innovation, and offer career opportunities for millions of Americans.



**WHAT
COULD
BE
NEXT?**



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

April 10- 24 – Student Tuition and Transparency System & Earnings Accountability E.O. 12866 Meetings

April 13-17 – AIM Committee Federal Negotiated Rulemaking – Session One

April 20 – CSPEN Spring Webinar Series – True Scope of Licensure Compliance

May 1 – CSPEN Early, Early-Bird Registration

May 1-8 -- Student Tuition and Transparency System & Earnings Accountability NPRM Publication

May 8 – CSPEN Call for Proposals Deadline

May 18-22 – AIM Committee Federal Negotiated Rulemaking – Session Two

May 25-29 – Student Loan Final Rule Publication



2026 Spring Webinar Series





BETWEEN THE LINES, BEHIND THE WORK:

Survey Findings on
the True Scope of
Licensure Compliance

<https://wcetsan.wiche.edu/resources/between-lines-behind-work-survey-findings-true-scope-licensure-compliance>

BETWEEN THE LINES, BEHIND THE WORK: SURVEY FINDINGS ON THE TRUE SCOPE OF LICENSURE COMPLIANCE

Summary

This report examines how institutions are managing the growing demands of professional licensure compliance following the 2024 federal certification requirements. Based on a nationwide survey, it highlights the scope, complexity, and intensity of licensure-related work across states, professions, and academic programs.

Unlike other compliance areas, professional licensure requires institutions to track and interpret highly variable state requirements, determine whether programs meet educational standards in each student's location, and provide accurate public and direct disclosures. Under the new regulations, institutions must certify these determinations at the time of enrollment, often without confirmation from state licensing boards, increasing institutional risk and responsibility.

The findings show that licensure compliance now carries significant workload, operational strain, and potential consequences for student access. Many institutions report increased staff burden, reliance on manual processes, and difficult decisions about where programs can be offered. The report provides early insight into how institutions are responding and underscores the need for sustainable compliance practices, clearer policy alignment, and continued collaboration to protect students and support licensure pathways.

CSPEN 2026

12th Annual Conference

August 10 - 13, 2026



Early Bird CSPEN Registration Closing Soon!



Call for Proposals Now Open

You are invited to share your wisdom and experience with your peers and our sector. We are asking for unique presentations of in depth knowledge and helpful information for the CSPEN conference.

Leaders, Educators, Experts, Innovators
It's time to raise your voice and share what you know!



Session Guidelines:

- ***Please complete a form for each proposal and each conference for which you would like to be considered***
- ***Proposal deadline is May 8, 2026***
- ***Selections and notifications will be completed by June 12, 2026***
- Sessions will last approximately one hour
- Special consideration is given to presentations that include representatives from an .edu, .org and/or .gov
- Presenters are not paid, but school personnel presenting will receive a 50% discount on registration for the conference
- **Sessions may not be sales pitches.** Presenters may provide a brief company overview in their introduction only. This should be limited to 5 minutes or less with an invitation to visit your booth for additional information.
- *****Vendors will need to co-present with a school or employer*****
- **Vendors, if chosen, are expected to have a booth in the exhibition hall at the standard vendor rate or register as a non-exhibiting vendor**

Submit Your Proposal Today!

