

TACRAO Summer Meeting: Federal Update

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AACRAO

Meet the Presenters



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Overview



- FY 2027 Education Funding
- Legislative Updates
- Regulatory Updates
- Solomon Amendment Guidance
- Department of Education
- ED Unified Agenda
- AACRAO in Action
- Ways to get Involved

Fiscal Year 2027 Education Funding

House Proposal for Department of Education Funding:

- Cleared committee on a 34-28 vote. Now headed for House floor consideration
- Funds ED at \$70.7b, which is ~\$8b less than FY26 and ~\$6.5b less than President's budget request
- Includes \$22.7b in discretionary funding for Pell, a \$250m increase above FY26. Raises max award to \$7,445 (a \$50 bump)
 - Addresses projected Pell shortfall, but eliminates Direct Subsidized loan subsidy
- Would block ED's final rule restricting advanced nursing programs from higher loan limits, but doesn't re-classify these as "professional degrees"
- Would block ED from altering the "fundamental purpose" of the TRIO program
- Beyond education, the bill would provide \$9.8b for DOL, a \$3.5b reduction, including \$2.6 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs

Legislative Update - No Aid for Ghost Students Act

[H.R. 7892](#) codifies a fraud detection system that the U.S. Department of Education has recently implemented.

- ED must establish an identity fraud detection system for the FAFSA.
 - ED must review each submitted application for identity fraud.
 - ED must notify the applicant and institution on the application if the applicant is subject to additional identity verification.
 - School may not disburse federal financial aid unless they verify the identity in person or by live video.
- Passed the House on June 10. Sent to Senate and referred to HELP Committee.

Legislative Updates - Parental Rights Relief Act

- The Parental Rights Relief Act ([H.R. 6860](#)) was introduced in the House on December 18, 2025 and referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce. There is no Senate companion bill nor any action in the House on it at this time.
- The legislation would do the following:
 - Require that the Department investigate, process, review, and adjudicate any FERPA complaints within 90 days of the complaint being filed
 - Create a private right of action

Legislative Update - SAVE Act

[H.R. 22/S. 128](#) requires “documentary proof of U.S. citizenship” when registering to vote in federal elections

- Real IDs indicating that the applicant is a U.S. citizen ([only 5 states issue these](#))
- Valid U.S. passports
- Military ID along with service records indicating place of birth in the U.S.
- Valid government-issued photo ID together with a select list of acceptable documents (names must match)

Brennan Center for Justice found more than [21 million Americans](#) lack ready access to these documents. Roughly [half](#) of Americans don't even have a passport.

What this means?

- National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE)
- Federal Work Study Funds ([August 19, 2025 DCL](#))

Regulatory Update - AHEAD Committee

Workforce Pell

- [NFR published](#) May 19, 2026; Effective date July 1, 2026
- Allows Pell to be used for short-duration, workforce-aligned programs (typically 8-15 weeks/ 150-599 clock hours)
- Movement has gone to the states to develop processes for approval

Student Tuition and Transparency System

- Programs whose graduates do not earn more than a typical high school student (bachelor's) or a typical bachelor's degree (Master's) are at jeopardy of losing funds
- [NFR published](#) July 1, 2026. First calculations expected July 1, 2027

Regulatory Update - AIM Committee

Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization (AIM) Committee

- Focus was on Accreditation agencies
- Consensus reached: [Draft consensus language](#) published
- Topics:
 - Streamlines the process to recognize new accrediting agencies
 - Increases criteria related to student success while removing DEI requirements
 - Supports “intellectual diversity” of faculty
 - Establishes new regulations on transfer of credit
- Next step - Waiting on NPRM

Transfer of Credit Consensus Language - Accreditor

§ 602.24 Additional procedures certain institutional agencies must have.

(e) Transfer of credit policies. The accrediting agency must confirm, as part of its review for initial accreditation, that the institution has transfer of credit policies which include provisions that-

- (1) Are publicly disclosed in accordance with 34 CFR 668.43 (a) (11) and include general policies for specific academic standards, time limits, and curricular requirements for acceptance of credits;
- (2) Include a comprehensive statement of all transfer of credit criteria established by the institution, which must consider the comparability and applicability of coursework completed or credit earned at another institution accredited by an agency recognized by the Secretary;
- (3) Do not deny the transfer of credit based on the institution at which the student completed the coursework or the agency that accredits that institution, so long as the agency recognized by the Secretary;
- (4) Award transfer credit for undergraduate programs for coursework that has been successfully completed at another institution that is accredited by an agency recognized by the Secretary and is comparable in content and learning outcomes to the institution's own course offerings, **unless** the institution provides a written basis for denial under 34 CFR 668.43 (c) (4) in accordance with its academic standards or curricular requirements; and
- (5) Provide the student an opportunity to appeal the decision within 15 calendar days of receipt of the institution's written notification if an institution declines to award transfer credit under paragraph (4).

Transfer of Credit Consensus Language - Disclosure

§ 668.43 Institutional and Programmatic Information (This is the disclosure piece for institutions). New sections have been added

(a)(11)

(i) The timeline by which a transcript must be submitted for timely review so that a prospective student can make an informed decision prior to making a nonrefundable financial commitment, enrollment or registration;

(v) A statement regarding whether the institution considers credit earned in a non-degree program, or hours completed in a non-degree program, for transfer or articulation to a degree program;

Transfer of Credit Consensus Language - Justification

§ 668.43 (c)

(3) If a student timely provides a transcript to an institution during the period described in (a)(11)(i) of this section, the institution must-

(i) Inform the student of the credit that will be awarded for courses on that transcript;

(ii) Inform the student of the credit that the institution declines to award for courses on that transcript; and

(iii) Disclose the estimated time and, when applicable, courses that would be needed to replace the courses for which the institution declined to award credit under paragraph (ii)

(4) If the institution declines to award credit to a student pursuant to its transfer of credit policy under 34 CFR 602.24 (e) (4), the institution must provide to the student a written rationale specific to each course that does not result in transfer credit.

(5) (i) Disclosures under paragraph (c)(3) of this section must be provided to the student by the earlier of the date that the student-

- (A) Signs an enrollment agreement;
- (B) Completes registration; or
- (C) Makes a nonrefundable financial commitment to the institution.

Solomon Amendment Guidance



- New guidance about providing drop lists to military recruiters will be provided soon.
- In lengthy conversations with DoD, AACRAO recently received updated guidance that we are still reviewing
- We will share soon in the Exchange and begin an outreach campaign on it

Department of Education

Department of Education continues to use Inter-Agency Agreements (IAA) to reduce ED's footprint

- Department of Labor has published multiple grant applications under the TRIO programs.
- Department of Treasury started to receive staff and collections of defaulted student loans.
 - Rescission of contracts to contractors due to “procurement error”
 - [CRS Report](#) released on the transition
 - Treasury-ED IAA has three phases
 - Treasury to service FSA's defaulted loans
 - Treasury to “assume responsibility for administrative operations for servicing non-defaulted debt”
 - Treasury to review programmatic and policy requirements governing students' eligibility for federal financial assistance.
- Student Privacy Policy Office and Office of Civil Rights [to move to](#) Department of Justice. (announced 6/16)

ED Unified Agenda

Christmas Tree Neg Reg to include:

- Change of Ownership
- Cash Management
- Administrative Capability Standards
- Program Length Requirements
- Financial Responsibility Requirements
- 90/10 rule
- Ronald E McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program
- Clery Act - Inclusion of Stop Campus Hazing Act
- Textbook anti-competitiveness related to textbook packaging rules (34 CFR 668.163(c)(2); improve transferability of college credits
- Rescinding the SAVE student loan repayment plan
- Section 117- Foreign Gift and Contract Reporting
- FERPA remains on the ED Unified Agenda (and not the DOJ agenda)

AACRAO in Action

Community Letters:

- [Community Letter Regarding Proposed Changes to Required Foreign Gift Reporting Under Section 117 of the HEA](#)
- [Community Letter Urging Congress to Advance a Permanent Legislative Solution for Dreamers that Supports their College Access and Workforce Pathways](#)
- [Community Letter Raising Concerns about Delays in Processing Times for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) Applications](#)
- [Community Letter in Response to Education Department's FY 2027 Budget Request](#)
- [Community Letter Urging the State Department to Prioritize Student Visa Processing Ahead of Upcoming Peak Season](#)
- [Community Letter Urging U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to Reinstate Monthly GI Bill Stakeholder Meeting](#)

Comments:

- [Community Comments With Nearly 40 Higher Education Groups in Response to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Related to New Student Tuition and Transparency System \(STATS\)](#)
- [AACRAO Comments on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Related to New Student Tuition and Transparency System \(STATS\)](#)

Ways to Get Involved



AACRAO Advocacy Center

- Send a letter to your Congressional representatives on a given issue
- Identify your federal and state elected officials
- View legislation that AACRAO is tracking at both the federal and state levels
- View election info. including dates, eligibility requirements, registration info.

AACRAO Productions

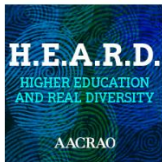
PODCASTS



An AACRAO podcast that serves to educate, amuse and inspire professionals in college admissions and enrollment management



Entertaining and enlightening, this AACRAO podcast focuses on the roles, responsibilities, and rigmarole of a registrar's office.



An AACRAO podcast hosted by three professionals discussing the intersection of DEI, Higher Education, and the personal impact of these topics. Join the presenters for an in-depth and personal look at the current landscape.



Learn about transfer efforts from experts across the nation and gain insight into the collaborations that are vital for transfer success.

NEWSLETTERS



AACRAO's bi-weekly professional development e-newsletter



AACRAO's weekly e-newsletter delivering policy and industry news

MEMBER LOGIN REQUIRED

BLOGS

EYE ON RESEARCH

A monthly commentary on AACRAO Research and relevant topics in Higher Education research.

SEMANTICS

The latest news from AACRAO consultants serving institutions across the nation and the world.



Ways to Get Involved

- Hill Day
 - Typically occurs in July each year. Applications generally open in March/April
- Public Policy Advisory Group (PPAG)
 - Applications open in February each year
- **GR Quarterly Webinar**
 - Tuesday, July 28 at 2pm EST
- Advocacy Exchange Community



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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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