

COLLEGE FREEDOM PROJECT

OUR MISSION:

CASE is committed to serving as the voice of American consumers by advocating strongly for free-markets, fiscal responsibility and reasonable consumer protections. Through these time-tested principles they will create more prosperity and opportunity for every American.

2025 HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS

The United States has a vibrant higher education system that affords students of all backgrounds the ability to earn a traditional degree or trade skill certification. However, the Biden-Harris administration has jeopardized our students' futures by pushing misguided policies, pursuing vengeful enforcement actions, and instituting biased rulemakings. Now with a united Republican government, it's imperative that we take this opportunity to prioritize policies that rein in the Department of Education, promote competition among schools, and advance solutions that make college more affordable.

1. EXPEDITIOUSLY CONFIRM LINDA MCMAHON AS SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

The Department of Education (DOE) is mired in enormous controversy for their numerous illegal attempts to cancel billions of dollars in student loans and an ideological battle to shut down alternative educational institutions, career-oriented colleges especially. Thankfully, the Senate can correct course by quickly approving the nomination of Linda McMahon, who will reform the Department and take it in a stronger direction. She will make education more local and less federal, less ideological, and promote more choice and opportunity for consumers who are making enormously momentous decisions in deciding their educational options. Our whole country will be better served with Linda McMahon heading this Department.

>> [Learn more here](#)

2. REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

The Higher Education Act was intended to be renewed on a five-year basis, but since 2008 it has been running on a series of temporary short-term extensions. The status quo creates uncertainty that is a disservice to students, schools, and even taxpayers. Thankfully, the House Education Committee passed a strong conservative reauthorization of the HEA with the College Cost Reduction Act, which finally addresses the root cause of increasingly expensive college degrees. It includes key provisions related to price transparency, prohibits future taxpayer bailouts, simplifies the student loan repayment process, and reverses misguided rules from the Department of Education that harm students. The 119th Congress should pass this legislation (or a similar iteration) to lower college costs for students and families.

>> [Learn more here](#)

3. END THE ILLEGAL STUDENT LOAN BAILOUT SCHEME.

President Biden and the bureaucracy have ignored the law and precedent by simply wiping away hundreds of billions of dollars in federal student loan debt. Even in the face of a stern and crystal-clear rebuke by the U.S. Supreme Court, Biden's DOE continued to push for millions of people to have their student loans forgiven and the cost passed on to ordinary taxpayers. The incoming administration must avoid similar actions and Congress should pass legislation that clarifies the illegality of broad student debt forgiveness.

>> [Learn more here](#)

COLLEGE FREEDOM PROJECT



DIG DEEPER

4. ELIMINATE THE FINANCIAL STUDENT AID OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT.

The Biden-Harris administration has routinely weaponized the Department of Education's Office of Enforcement—a resurrected part of the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) – which was created with the purpose of targeting institutions that do not conform to this administration's radical agenda. Over the last three years the ideological bureaucrats in the office have sought to completely shutter career colleges – institutions of higher education that prepare students with certified and credentialed training before they enter the workforce. Career colleges help equip students with hands-on experience in fields such as public safety, medical and nursing, teaching, cosmetology, senior-care, and much more. In fact, a recent report noted that 70 percent of the Office's actions have targeted career colleges and faith-based schools – a shocking and unprecedented example of bias. The incoming administration has authority to deprioritize this office and Congress must pass a law to ensure no future harassment bias occurs.

>> [Learn more here](#)

5. RECERTIFY INSTITUTIONS' PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.

The Department of Education has abdicated its responsibility to review and renew Program Participation Agreements with almost 700 institutions of higher education. These PPAs are required for schools to participate in the student financial assistance programs and ultimately offers clarity for schools to accept students. The inability to renew these programs creates an atmosphere of uncertainty for students and providers alike, and add to the ongoing hostility from the Biden administration towards untraditional schools like career colleges. The incoming administration has the ability to resolve this logjam quickly by approving the hundreds of applications that have needlessly been ignored.

>> [Learn more here](#)

6. ENSURE ED TECH COMPANIES CONTINUE TO SERVE COLLEGES AND THEIR ONLINE STUDENTS

In 2011 the Obama Administration authored a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) (GEN 11-05) which protected collegiate collaboration with third-party provider services companies offering bundled services, such as technology, online courseware, recruiting and marketing. Accordingly, the DCL has since produced thousands of successful partnerships with online program managers (OPMs) to expand course offerings and increase access to nontraditional and rural students – frequently at a lower cost than traditional in-person classes. Regrettably, the Biden Administration threatened to rescind the DCL in 2023. Because of an overwhelming response by colleges offering online or distance education, the Department of Education abandoned their regulatory zeal. In contrast to the Biden overreach, secretary-nominee Linda McMahon and the Trump Administration would be wise to codify the bundled services exemption so that online course partnership can thrive without fear of new and arbitrary rules.

>> [Learn more here](#)