
SUMMER 2021 REGION III PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



- **FEDERAL UPDATES**

- **Federal Budget/Appropriations**

- 8/11: Senate passes budget bill down party lines (50-49): <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HEN21B52.pdf>
 - 50-49 to adopt an amendment by Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) to take a stance against teaching "critical race theory" in schools
 - 7/11: House Appropriations Committee unveils FY 2022 Labor-HHS-bill: <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriations-committee-releases-fiscal-year-2022-labor-health-and-human>
 - Higher Education programs would receive \$3.43 billion, an increase of \$889 million and \$122 million above the president's request. Additionally, the bill provides \$1.13 billion for minority-serving institutions, a modest boost of \$345 million. It also sets aside:
 - \$27.2 billion for Federal Student Aid programs, an increase of \$2.64 billion, but \$358 million below Biden's request.
 - A \$400 boost to the Pell Grant, which would bring the maximum award up to \$6,895. Biden has said this is a down payment on his promise to double the maximum award, and the administration said it would be the largest one-time increase since 2009.
 - New pilot programs: Lawmakers included \$8 million for a Basic Needs Grants pilot program for college students to use on housing, food, transportation, and access to physical and mental health. And, the measure lists \$5 million for the Distributed Higher Education Digital Infrastructure Pilot, a program that looks to support a collaboration between colleges with established remote learning infrastructure and minority-serving institutions. House Democrats also want \$5 million for a Menstrual Products Program to provide free menstrual products on college campuses.
 - Policy riders:
 - The bill allows undocumented students protected by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to now be eligible for Pell Grants and other student financial assistance, including federal student loans.
 - House Democrats also include language to require for-profit colleges to derive more of their revenue from non-federal sources. And the bill would prevent federal funds from being awarded to charter schools run by for-profit entities.

- **Department of Education**

- Title IX
 - 7/20 Release of new guidance re: Title IX: <https://blog.ed.gov/2021/07/next-steps-in-ocrs-comprehensive-review-of-title-ix-actions-a-new-qa-and-the-public-hearing-transcript/>

- Summary from the Chronicle: https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/higher-ed-under-biden-harris/six-things-to-know-about-the-new-title-ix-guidance?cid=gen_sign_in
 - 8/11: The Senate agreed to consider Kvaal's nomination when it returns from recess next month. The chamber is set to take a procedural vote on the nomination after 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 13.
 - 8/9: Secretary Cardona rescinds DeVos notice of interpretation that states cannot oversee federal student loan servicers: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/new-interpretation-encourage-state-collaboration-student-loan-servicing>
 - 8/6: Student loan pause extended until January 1, 2022: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-administration-extends-student-loan-pause-until-january-31-2022>
 - 7/30: Expansion of Second Chance Pell for 2022-2023: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-it-will-expand-second-chance-pell-experiment-2022-2023-award-year>
 - 7/29: The U.S. Department of Education announced today \$3.2 billion in additional emergency grants under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). These funds will support students who attend over 1,800 institutions of higher education and provide resources to help these institutions recover from the impacts of the pandemic: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-32-billion-additional-higher-education-emergency-relief-funds-support-students-historic-and-under-resourced-institutions>
 - 7/26: Public Service Loan Forgiveness open for public comment through Sep 24: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/26/2021-15831/request-for-information-regarding-the-public-service-loan-forgiveness-program>
- **International Students**
 - 7/27: ED and State Department issues joint statement in support of international education: https://educationusa.state.gov/sites/default/files/intl_ed_joint_statement.pdf
 - Inside Higher Ed article: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/07/27/statement-expresses-%E2%80%98renewed%E2%80%99-us-commitment-international-ed>
- **IN THE NEWS**
 - **COVID-19**
 - The South Carolina Supreme Court has ruled the University of South Carolina has the right to require all students wear masks inside: <https://www.thestate.com/news/local/education/article253525924.html>
 - U.S. Supreme Court rejects challenge to Indiana University's vaccination requirement: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/supreme-court-rejects-challenge-indiana-university-s-vaccination-requirement-n1276714>
 - Being unvaccinated for COVID will cost students an extra \$750: <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/08/11/1026666932/unvaccinated-covid-college-students-west-virginia-750-fee>
 - **TITLE IX**
 - Statements not subject to cross-examination can still be considered in the adjudication process: <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2021/07/30/judge-strikes-down-provision-title-ix-rule>

- NCAA ratchets up pressure on FL to allow trans athletes to compete in women's sports
<https://www.wfla.com/sports/ncaa-ratchets-up-pressure-on-florida-to-allow-trans-athletes-to-compete-in-womens-sports/>
 - US Department of Justice accuses Nebraska of misapplying Title IX laws (READ)
https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/31613939/us-department-justice-accuses-nebraska-misapplying-title-ix-laws
 - Protections for LGBTQ+ students (under Title IX)
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/07/16/institutions-consider-title-ix-protections-lgbtq-students-light-ocr-notice>
 - 21 conservative AGs push back on ED Title IX guidance
<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/07/16/conservative-ags-education-department-title-ix-499867>
 - 12 women file lawsuit against Liberty University claiming failures of Title IX office
<https://www.nbc29.com/2021/07/20/12-women-file-lawsuit-against-liberty-university-claiming-failures-title-ix-office/>
 - NCAA punishes Baylor, but not for mishandling sexual violence
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/ncaa-punishes-baylor-u-but-not-for-mishandling-sexual-violence>
 - In skirt case, appeals court says Title IX bars dress codes that discriminate based on sex
<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/in-skirt-case-appeals-court-says-title-ix-bars-dress-codes-that-discriminate-based-on-sex/2021/08>
- **First Amendment**
 - Cheerleader's F-Bombs Are Protected By The First Amendment, Supreme Court Rules
<https://www.npr.org/2021/06/24/1009750977/cheerleaders-f-bombs-are-protected-by-the-1st-amendment-supreme-court-rules>
 - FL law will require public colleges to survey for intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/florida-law-will-require-public-colleges-to-survey-for-intellectual-freedom-and-viewpoint-diversity>
 - Justice Thomas slams qualified immunity for college officials in First Amendment case
<https://www.dailyadvent.com/news/30631ac0d44d4f98495edecb777ebb57-Clarence-Thomas-Slams-Qualified-Immunity-For-College-Officials-In-First-Amendment-Case>
- **DACA**
 - Texas judge orders federal government to stop granting new DACA applications:
<https://www.texastribune.org/2021/07/16/new-article-1626468650daca-texas-judge/>
 - DACA in doubt after court ruling: 3 questions answered:
<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/daca-doubt-after-court-ruling-3-questions-answered>
- **Campus Safety**
 - Campus gun law prompts court fight in Montana:
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/06/02/new-campus-carry-law-montana-raises-state-constitutional-questions>
 - DOE finds ASU in violation of the Clery Act
<https://www.statepress.com/article/2021/06/spcommunity-department-of-education-finds-asu-in-violation-of-clery-act>

- **Fraternity & Sorority Life**
 - A freshman was “hazed to death” his family says. 15 former fraternity members now face charges <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/06/04/wsu-fraternity-death/>
 - Delta Chi Fraternity chapter permanently banned from VCU <https://www.nbc12.com/2021/06/03/delta-chi-fraternity-chapter-permanently-banned-vcu/>
 - VCU to ban alcohol at Greek events after student’s death <https://www.cbs19news.com/story/44495266/vcu-to-ban-alcohol-at-greek-events-after-students-death>

- **NASPA Policy Statements & Sign-Ons**
 - **Sign-On Letters**
 - [Letter in Support of Labor-HHS-Spending Bill](#)—NASPA along with other higher education associations applauds the House for the expansion of federal funding to make college more accessible, affordable, and equitable, included in the budget bill. July 14, 2021
 - [Letter in Support of House Spending Bill](#)—NASPA along with other higher education associations writes in support of the Fiscal Year 2022 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill that will be considered on the floor as part of the FY22 minibus of appropriations bills. July 23, 2021
 - [Joint Statement on State COVID Restrictions](#)—NASPA along with the American College Health Association and other higher education associations work to elevate the issue that an increasing number of states have restricted the ability of colleges and other organizations to deploy an evidence-based combination of strategies to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks on campus and in surrounding communities and respond to them promptly and effectively should they occur. August 2, 2021

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - NASPA Annual Conference Proposals are due September 3rd!
 - <https://conference.naspa.org/program/call-for-programs>
 - Check the Public Policy Division website for more information including our monthly blogposts on a variety of public policy topics: <https://www.naspa.org/division/public-policy-division>

This monthly newsletter is compiled by the NASPA Region III Public Policy Representative, James Tyger. If you would like to send suggestions for the next newsletter, please email JTyger@ufl.edu.

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