

# RECENT CHANGES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

VIRGINIA REGIONAL ACCREDITATION SYMPOSIUM  
MARCH 24, 2021

Moderator:

*Dr. Herb Amato*

*Associate Vice Provost for Accreditation and Faculty Recognition  
James Madison University*

Presenters:

*Dr. Rachel Gable*

*Director of Institutional Effectiveness  
Virginia Commonwealth University*

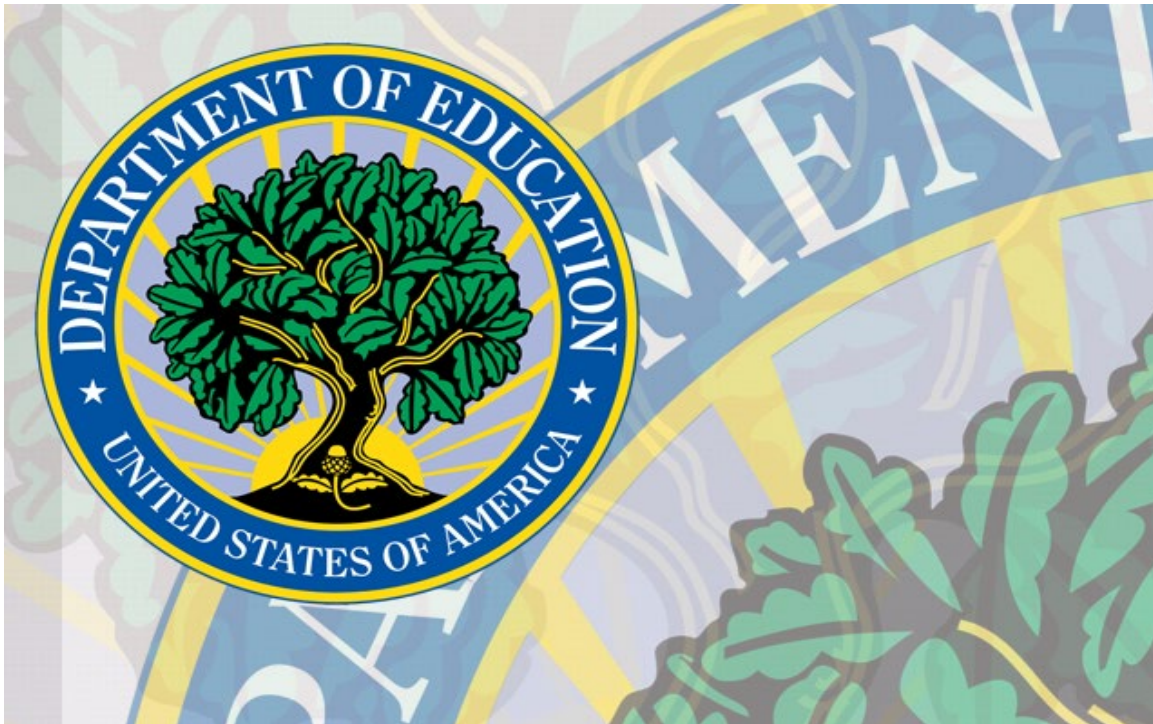
*Dr. Matt Smith*

*Director of Accreditation  
George Mason University*



# Education in America

**DOE**



**CHEA**



# Education in America

**Joe Biden**



**Kamala Harris**



# Education in America

**Miguel Cardona**



**James Kvall**



# POTENTIAL KEY FOCUS AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED BY BY NEW ADMINISTRATION AND/OR 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

## ❖ Tuition and Funding



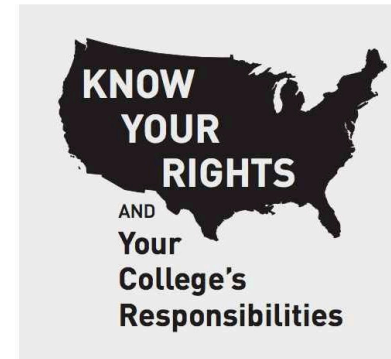
## ❖ Equity and Social Justice



## ❖ Transfer



## ❖ Title IX and Gender Policy Review



# BIDEN HIGHER EDUCATION AGENDA

## AS OF FRIDAY, 3/19/2021, EXECUTIVE ORDERS RELATED TO HIGHER EDUCATION

- Support of Reopening Schools
- Debt Relief for Defrauded Students
- Review of Title IX Regulations & Gender Policy

## BIDEN'S HIGHER EDUCATION AGENDA

- Covid-19 Relief
- College Accessibility
- Community Colleges
- College Sports
- Underrepresented Minority Students
- Tackling Racism in Government Agencies and Higher Education
- Student Loan Debt



# BILLS INTRODUCED IN 117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

AS OF WEDNESDAY 3/24/2021 (A.M.), NUMBER OF EDUCATION RELATED BILLS:

- Introduced = 77 (45 D / 32 R)
- In Committee = 1
- Floor Consideration = 5
- Passed One Chamber = 5

COMMON THEMES FOR THOSE FOCUSED ON HIGHER EDUCATION :

- Covid Relief, Reopening Support
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Debt Relief
- Relations with International Entities and Governments



# RECENT CHANGES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

- July 1, 2020: Revisions to 34 C.F.R. Parts **600**, **602**, 603, 654, **668**, and 674, including:
- Accrediting agency oversight requirement; substantive change; teach outs (§602)
  - Regional vs. national accreditors (§602.3)
  - State authorization requirements (§600.9)
  - Professional licensure program disclosures (§668.43)





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- Regional vs. national accreditors (§602.3)
- State authorization requirements (§600.9)
- Professional licensure program disclosures (§668.43)

July 1, 2021: Revisions to 34 C.F.R. Parts 600, 602, and 668 including:

- New terminology “academic engagement” (§600.2)
- Revised definitions of “clock hour,” “credit hour,” and “distance education” (§600.2)
- Revised definition of “week of instructional time” (§668.3)
- Regulations governing direct assessment programs (§668.10)
- Treatment of title IV funds when student withdraws (§668.22)
- Satisfactory academic progress (§668.34)



# RECENT CHANGES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

- Now you know what prompted SACSCOC's new 81-page *Substantive Change Policy and Procedures!*
- Regional vs. National Accreditors
  - What's the deal?
  - What's the impact for institutions that previously only recognized credits/degrees from "regionally accredited" institutions
- Professional Licensure Disclosure Requirements

*If an educational program is designed to meet or is advertised as meeting the educational requirements for a licensure or certification that is required for employment, then certain disclosures are required.*



# RECENT CHANGES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

## Professional Licensure Disclosure Requirements

### **\*\*Educational Requirements of the State vs. Education Provided by Your Program\*\***

#### **1. General disclosures – *for each program* [34 CFR 668.43(a)(5)(v)]**

*\*Meets\*, \*Does Not Meet,\* \*Has not made determination\**

For each program, publish list of states falling into each category

#### **2. *Individualized Disclosure* [34 CFR 668.43(c)]**

*Does Not Meet*: must notify *current and prospective* students

*Have Not Determined*: must notify *prospective* students

What is a “prospective” student?



# UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Becoming Effective July 1, 2021:

- **Definitions of “clock hour,” “credit hour” to address distance education**
- **Accountability for Distance Education: “Regular and substantive interaction”**
- Definitions of “academic engagement” and “Week of instructional time”
  - now addressing distance education
- Regulations governing direct assessment programs (§668.10)
- Treatment of title IV funds when student withdraws – a LOT of new language



# RECENT CHANGES TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Questions

