

Section By Section of the Student Right to Know Before You Go Act of 2013

Sec. 1. Short Title

Sec. 2. This section amends the current Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System (IPEDS) reporting standards to add the components of this Act. The completion of all IPEDS surveys, in a timely and accurate manner, is mandatory for all institutions that participate in or are applicants for participation in any Federal financial assistance program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The completion of the surveys is mandated by 20 USC 1094, Section 487(a)(17) which this section amends.

Sec. 3. This section clarifies that where the metrics reported under this Act overlap with existing reporting requirements, institutions shall not have to report on duplicative metrics. Under current law, institutions must make available extensive information on metrics such as graduation rates, cost of attendance, refund policies, percent of students that receive Pell Grants, educational programs offered, etc. This section eliminates any duplication.

Sec. 4.

(a) This section clarifies that the Department of Education is authorized to carry out the directives outlined in this Act.

(b) This section adds a new part (Sec. 493E) to the Higher Education Act of 1965.

A description of new Sec. 493E is as follows:

(a) Streamlines current reporting requirements to consolidate existing requirements, where redundant, into the new student-level system created by this Act.

(b) Requires the Secretary of Education to establish, within one year, common definitions and submission standards. The new classifications require that specific outcomes data be broken down by: students that participate in remedial education, students that are degree vs. non-degree seeking or certificate/non-certificate seeking.

(c) Establishes new outcome measures, broken down by both institution and program of study, on:

- The percent of students that receive federal, state, and institutional grant aid or loans by source
- The average amount of total federal loan debt upon graduation
- The average amount of total federal loan debt for students that do not complete a program
- Student transfer rates
- Rates at which students continue on to higher levels of education
- Percent of students that receive the degree level they initially sought

Ensures that the above listed outcome measures are also broken down on the basis of:

- Receipt of Pell Grants
 - Receipt of Stafford Loans
 - Receipt of GI Bill benefits
 - Student status (first-time/full-time, first-time/part-time, non-first-time/full-time, non-first-time/part-time)
 - Enrollment intensity (full-time only, part-time only, mixed enrollment status)
- (d)** Directs the Secretary to make available average median earnings (2 years, 6 years, and 15 years post-completion) and employment metrics broken down by:
- Educational program
 - Credential received
 - Institution
 - State of employment
- (e)** Directs the Secretary to post aggregate information reported under this Act on the Department's website in a timely and user-friendly manner and in a way that does not enable the dissemination of any personally identifiable information.
- (f)** Creates process to ensure a period of consistent data for evaluation purposes by creating a five year window during which the Department of Education must continue to publish outcomes metrics as they would have been reported under previous law.
- (g)** Directs the Secretary to consult with states in developing the updated reporting metrics under this Act.
- (h)** Directs the Secretary to consult with institutions and state agencies of higher education in forming the reporting and calculation standards.
- (i)** Instructs the Secretary to create a process through which schools may request outcomes data on their students at an aggregate level for the purposes of institutional and program improvement. Ensures institutions will have a process through which they may review data to ensure accuracy in reporting.
- (j)** Creates a data audit system to ensure quality, validity, and reliability of information and a data governance system to ensure compliance with all federal standards of data quality and individual privacy. Prohibits data from being used for any purpose not specifically authorized by federal law. Requires that before implementation, the Secretary must publish and make available for public comment, assurances that the system not disclose any personally identifiable information and that the data system complies with all requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- (k)** Creates penalties for unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable data of both monetary fines and up to five years in prison.
- (l)** Authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for FY2014-2022.