

Section by Section: The Student Right to Know Before You Go Act of 2017

Sec. 1. Short Title

Sec. 2. Definitions

Sec. 3. This section establishes the parameters of the new higher education data system. Specifically it ensures this new system:

- Is overseen by the Commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).
- Sets up a process through which the Secretary and NCES Commissioner issue rules establishing definitions, data collection and submission requirements, and data governance standards.
- Utilizes the best available cybersecurity and privacy-enhancing technologies including secure multi-party computation (MPC) or other technologies that deliver greater student privacy and security than MPC. MPC is a computerized system that enables different participating entities in possession of sensitive data to link and aggregate their data without transferring or otherwise revealing any private data to each other or anyone else. At a minimum, these technologies must ensure:
 - No reporting entity's raw data is available to the Department of Education or any other reporting entity (including institutions of higher education and federal agencies);
 - No information about the data components used in the system is revealed by the system to the Department or any other party; and
 - No information or data that can identify any individual can be revealed by the system to the Department or any other party.

Sec. 4. This section establishes the process through which entities report data components to the system and mandates that reporting entities must use the technologies described in Sec. 3. Reporting entities include:

- Any institution of higher education participating in federal financial assistance programs. Institutions may choose to either submit data directly to the system or utilize a third party with the demonstrated capacity of utilizing the technologies described in Sec. 3.
- The Social Security Administration and Department of the Treasury for the purposes of submitting earnings data.
- The Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of submitting educational assistance information.
- The Department of Education for the purpose of submitting financial aid information.

Sec. 5. This section establishes the new education outcome metrics to be reported under the Act. Specifically, such metrics include:

- All student-focused metrics currently reported under the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) including enrollments, completions, graduation rates, outcome measures, and financial aid receipt.
- Percent of students who receive: federal grants, federal loans, state grants, states loans, private loans, private scholarships, institutional grants, and institutional loans.
- Student completion rates.
- Mean and median amount of federal loan debt for completers and non-completers.
- Loan repayment rates.
- Student transfer rates.

- Transfer student completion rates.
- Rates at which students continue on to subsequent levels of education.
- Percent of students who receive the degree level initially sought.
- Dropout rates.

The outcome metrics described above shall be disaggregated on the basis of the following characteristics:

- Pell Grant recipients.
- Federal student loan recipients.
- Students that receive neither a Pell Grant nor federal loans.
- Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance recipients.
- Servicemembers or veterans.
- Enrollment status (eg first-time, part-time, etc.).
- Race or ethnicity.
- Age or age intervals.
- Gender.
- First-generation student status.
- Type of credential sought.
- College-ready status.
- Completion status.

In addition to the education- and debt-related metrics above, the data system will also produce the following earnings metrics disaggregated by program of study and credential received, state of employment, and completion status:

- Debt-to-earnings ratio.
- Annual earnings from employment.

Sec. 6. This section creates a five year transition period during which both IPEDS metrics, as currently calculated, continue to be published. After five years, the new data system will replace the student-focused IPEDS metrics.

Sec. 7. Instructs the Secretary to make metrics described in Sec. 5 available on the Department of Education website in a timely and user-friendly manner.

Sec. 8. Creates a rule of construction clarifying that this Act does not affect other activity related to data collection that is authorized by federal law.

Sec. 9. Eliminates any duplicative reporting requirements under the Higher Education Act and requires institutions to include a link on their websites to the Department of Education's website that contains the outcomes data created under this Act.

Sec. 10. Authorizes such sums as necessary to carry out this Act.