

 NAICU Webinar

COVID-19: Overview of Federal Guidance and Proposed Congressional Action

NAICU Government Relations Team

March 20, 2020

Agenda

- Review of Agency Guidance.
 - Links available on NAICU's COVID-19 [website](#).
- Advocacy Plan.
- Questions.

Education Department Guidance – March 5, 2020

Tim Powers

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Policy

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- Initial ED [guidance](#) to help colleges navigate COVID-19 crisis.
 - *NEW (March 20): [Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19](#)*
- Broadly covers several major topics, including:
 - Distance Education flexibility
 - Accreditation flexibility
 - Federal Work-Study distributions
 - Enrollment status changes
 - Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)
 - Withdrawals

Accreditation Guidance

- Accreditors may:
 - [Waive](#) Distance Education review requirements for students whose study was interrupted by COVID-19;
 - [Extend](#) the term of Accreditation for institutions seeking renewal;
 - Provide good-cause extensions to institutions on a show-cause order or probation; and
 - Perform virtual site visits.
- Accreditors have authority to waive clinical requirements, but state licensing requirements may be a hindrance.

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FERPA Guidance

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- Institutions may disclose student information without consent under the “[health and safety emergency](#)” exception if the disclosure is:
 - Necessary to protect the health or safety of students or others;
 - Limited to appropriate parties, e.g., health officials; and
 - Limited to the period of a specific emergency.
- Department will not second guess reasonable determinations.

International Students/SEVP Guidance

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- USCIS issued [guidance](#) covering 3 scenarios:
 1. A school closes and no online or alternate learning options are offered.
 2. A school temporarily stops in-person classes but implements online or other alternate learning options and the nonimmigrant student stays in the U.S.
 3. Same scenario as #2 above, but the nonimmigrant student departs the U.S.

GI Bill Benefits – Veterans Affairs (VA) Guidance

- VA sent [guidance](#) to State Approving Agencies.
- Schools should temporarily suspend enrollment certification if schools have closed or changed educational modality due to COVID-19.
- Schools should contact State Approving Agencies for additional information.
- Congress passed a legislative fix for GI bill benefits ([S. 3503](#)) that is awaiting the President's signature.
- Working on additional measures

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Student Mental Health Services Guidance

- HHS OCR [waived](#) penalties for HIPPA violations to allow health care providers to serve patients via “telehealth.”
- Mental health service providers are not always considered “health care providers.” Varies by state.
- States enacting similar waivers to allow campus-based mental health service providers to treat existing student patients via “tele-health.”
- Schools should ask states to waive restrictions.

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Small Business Administration (SBA) Assistance

- SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance:
 - [Includes](#) low-interest federal disaster loans for small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19).
 - NAICU members qualify for the loans (if under \$30 million in maximum revenue).
 - See the [online tool](#) to determine whether your institution qualifies as a small business. Use NAICS code 611310 and register now to get in the queue.

Bo Newsome

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Census Guidance

- Census Bureau will [count](#) college students where they primarily live and sleep as of April 1, 2020.
 - Students will count as living on campus even if they are home now.
 - Ensures that your community will receive the service support reflected by the population.
- Parents should only include children in college who live with them full-time during the school year.
- Census will collect age, sex and date of birth.
 - Schools can complete form listing all students using data from administrative records.

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Congressional Action

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201)

- SNAP and school meals
- Paid sick leave and unemployment
- Medicaid

- Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (H.R. 6074)

- Funding for federal agency response efforts

- “Supplemental #3” in the works

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Advocacy Plan

- Contact your Member of Congress to seek:
 - Emergency Grant Funds for Students
 - Technology Assistance
 - Grants or Zero Interest Federal Loans for Institutions
 - Relaxation of Reporting and Audit Requirements

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What NAICU Members Can Do to Help

- Provide cost estimates of how much your institution is spending and stories of how your institution and students are coping.

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- Contact NC-SARA to request suspension of financial responsibility standards.

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Questions?

- Policy clarifications?
- Resources you need?
- NAICU staff available to help.

Contact Information

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