



Update on Higher Education Policy

2019
DISABILITY
POLICY SEMINAR

April 8-10, 2019 | Renaissance Hotel Washington, DC

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- Originally signed into law in 1965
- 2008 Higher Education Opportunity Act
 - Included Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID) funds
 - Professional development for institution staff and faculty
 - College Navigator



TL;DR of Higher Education Act



Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Principles on HEA

- Implementation and Enforcement of Civil Rights
- Remove Barriers to Enrollment
- Increase Student Persistence and Completion
- Make College Affordable
- Quality, Disaggregated Data
- Accountability Systems
- Exclude predatory for-profits
- Protect Student Loan Borrowers
- Ensure Safe and Inclusive Campus Climates
- Invest in HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions



Update on K-12 Policy and Special Education

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- IDEA Oversight
- Legislation to ban seclusion and restraint
- ESSA Implementation
- Freedom Scholarships

Overview



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- Chair: Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
- New! Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services: Chair, Rep. Bonamici (D-WA)
- Disability included in planning for all committee legislation
- Chair's Priorities:
 - Oversight of Trump Administration
 - **Higher Education Act Reauthorization - Senate too**
 - Discipline and School Safety (school climate)
 - Seclusion and Restraint
 - School Infrastructure/School Construction



House Education and Labor Committee

- Establish minimum safety standards
 - Prohibit seclusion and mechanical, chemical and physical restraint
 - Prohibit physical restraint as a planned intervention
 - Requires parental notification and follow-up meetings if restraint occurs
- States provide training to all staff including school resource officers
- Increase transparency, data collection, oversight, and enforcement to prevent future abuse and death
- To be re-introduced this spring by Rep. Byer (D-VA), Sen. Murphy (D-CT)
- U.S. Dept. of Education Initiative



Keeping All Students Safe Act

Trump Administration

- Proposed to expand and improve education options
- Proposed \$5 billion in tax credits
- Provided charter school grant funds to states - an evaluation is due this year.
- Publicly maintains that current policy of 'parental placement' will be upheld.

Congress

- Freedom Scholarships bills introduced by:
 - Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX): S. 634
 - Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL): HR 1434
 - No action taken or expected
- FY2018 and FY2019 appropriations
 - Congress provided \$98 million for charter school grants to states. Charter schools are public schools.
 - FY 2020 funding is TBD



Freedom Scholarship Initiative

Questions



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