



2019 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

Simplify the FAFSA process (including the Ability to Benefit option) for students applying for financial aid.

Reform the allocation formulas for Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Federal Work Study (FWS) so institutions serving high percentages of needy students receive appropriate resources.

Oppose risk-sharing proposals that would require colleges to share financial responsibility for student loan defaults — an approach that casts students who receive financial aid as a potential liability.

Pell Grants

Preserve the federal Pell Grant Program and **increase the maximum award** yearly to keep pace with inflation.

Make Pell Grants available to college students who are pursuing **short-term training programs**.

Increase the amount of federal Pell Grant funds a student may receive over a lifetime from 12 semesters (6 years) to **14 semesters (7 years)**.

Open Pell Grant eligibility to **incarcerated students** and, until then, preserve the Second Chance Pell program.

Maintain full eligibility for **“Ability-to-Benefit”** students.

Education/Workforce Development

Increase funding for the occupational and adult education programs authorized in the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**.

Increase funding for colleges, programs and services that improve **equity and completion** for diverse and economically disadvantaged students.

Ensure **access to high-speed internet** so students everywhere can benefit from educational resources and innovations. This includes secured access for incarcerated students.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Eliminate a 30 percent cap on the number of people in vocational training programs a state can count toward meeting its required, statewide work-participation rate.

Increase the lifetime cap on **vocational training for TANF recipients from 12 to 24 months**. This will align with Washington state’s WorkFirst program and ensure no loss of federal funds to Washington.

Remove the distinction between “core” and “non-core” activities that count toward a TANF recipient’s individual, required work rate. A non-core activity — which includes adult basic education — counts only when the recipient spends a certain number of hours in a “core” activity (such as employment.)

DREAM Act

Create a **path to citizenship** for undocumented students who are long-time U.S. residents,

Eliminate federal restrictions on states that offer in-state tuition to undocumented students.

Make **DREAM Act students eligible for federal financial aid**.

Veterans

Fund new and existing programs to better serve veteran students.

Enact reforms that **protect veterans against exploitation** of their G.I. Bill education benefits.