

CBS WebEx – 6.12.20 – Q and A

WebEx called to order and welcome by Monica Wilson.

Monica Wilson shared the link to the [COVID-19 Google Folder](#)

Jon's update:

- CARES Act funding continues at the expense of our students, I am sorry to say that the guidance that we shared last week-- has been put on hold by Secretary DeVos. Late last night, we received the most recent announcement on eligibility guidance for CARES Act (stimulus) funding for students from the Trump Administration.

The Trump administration's new regulation requires colleges to limit emergency coronavirus relief grants for expenses like food and housing to only students who qualify for federal financial aid eliminating the majority of our students without a high school credential and still eliminating DACA, undocumented, and International students.

The "interim final rule" carries out Secretary Betsy DeVos' policy, first announced in April, of preventing CARES Act emergency grants from going to undocumented students and others who don't qualify for federal student aid.

The rule will take effect immediately after it is published in the Federal Register, which the department said would happen on June 15. The agency will also accept public comments on the policy for 30 days. We of course will be submitting comments from all fronts.

Secretary DeVos said that the rule was aimed at eliminating any "uncertainty" for colleges about how they must distribute the funds and carrying out the department's "responsibility to taxpayers to administer the CARES Act faithfully."

On a positive note, the department said that it would not retroactively enforce the new rule against colleges, which have already been doling out billions of dollars in grants to students. The good news-----is that the rule comes as the Education Department is facing legal challenges to its policy. Democrats, state AGs, and college officials have cried foul over the limitations, arguing that they go against the intent of the CARES Act, which does not include any explicit restrictions on which students can receive the funding.

The court filing on June 6 came as part of a lawsuit over the restrictions brought by California's community colleges. And a federal judge in San Francisco earlier this week indicated that she will likely rule soon on the California community college system's request for an order blocking DeVos from imposing the restrictions. The judge appeared skeptical of the Trump administration's arguments in favor of imposing federal student aid eligibility requirements on the emergency CARES Act grants. You can get a copy of the pre-publication rule at the link in the chat:

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresactifeligibility6112020.pdf?source=email>

sorry to say, funding to our students is again on hold. Keep your fingers crossed, we believe there is still some hope

- Update on our system-level marketing work - The AEAC Communications & Enrollment Workgroup heading up this initiative is made up of AEAC members from across agencies.

AEAC enrollment group's work over the past year has focused on the AEAC Workplan Goal 4: Implement proven marketing strategies to engage individuals, families, employers, and others in basic skills workforce education opportunities.

- Jon announced his retirement, his last day will be August 31, 2020!

BEdA COVID-19 Messages

- 6.9.20 - Education Department backtracks on timing of new restrictions on CARES Act grant - Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' new regulation that restricts which college students may receive emergency relief grants under the CARES Act won't be unveiled this week as previously planned, the Trump administration told a federal judge today.

Education Department officials wrote in a Federal Register notice earlier today that the agency was scheduled to publish the rule "on or about" today. But in a court filing this afternoon, attorneys representing the department said that was not the case.

The "interim final rule" governing the \$6 billion emergency aid program to help college students pay for expenses like food and housing is not finalized yet, the Trump administration said in the court filing. "The Department does intend to publish an IFR on this subject, but does not expect it to be ready for publication before June 15, 2020, at the earliest," the attorneys wrote.

CONTEXT: The new rule is expected, based on documents filed with OMB, to require colleges to exclude undocumented students and others who don't qualify for federal student aid from the emergency relief grants under the CARES Act H.R. 748 (116). Those are restrictions that DeVos first outlined in April in a guidance document.

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- Ability to Benefit – 6.7.20 email shared by Will Durden
Important update on Ability to Benefit and Washington College Grant tracking. As you all know, students without a high school credential can receive both federal and state financial aid by demonstrating their "ability to benefit" through two Options - Option 1) approved testing or Option 2) earning six college-level credits successfully.

WA State's Ability to Benefit (ATB) Option 3 goes into effect on July 1, 2020 for the Washington College Grant. This process gives more students access to ATB through dual enrollment in our highly successful dual credit I-BEST and High School Plus (HS+) diploma programs. And, it relieves some of the eligibility requirements that colleges face with the current requirement that students either pass an approved test or earn six college credits.

With the significant expansion of the use of the ATB Options for the Federal Pell Grant and the Washington College Grant, it is critical that ATB recipients be tracked in both the Legacy and ctLink systems.

Federal Ability to Benefit – Please remember to apply Ability to Benefit coding for students receiving federal financial aid based on Ability to Benefit this quarter. This process became standard practice in winter quarter 2020 and this is our first full quarter of implementation. For

full details, please see the [Ability to Benefit Coding Instructions](#) or the [SBCTC Student & Course Coding Manual](#).

Washington College Grant Ability to Benefit – Please remember to apply Ability to Benefit coding for students receiving the Washington College Grant state financial aid based on Ability to Benefit this quarter. This process became standard practice in winter quarter 2020 and this is our first full quarter of implementation. For full details, please see the [Ability to Benefit Coding Instructions](#) or the [SBCTC Student & Course Coding Manual](#).

This tracking allows us to report on our efforts to expand the use of Ability to Benefit statewide. This equity driver will gain importance as we prepare to train a new generation of students seeking to improve their lives and earn the credentials needed for living wage work – a critical centerpiece of our equity efforts.

- Update on distance ed for WABERS+ - beginning in Summer 2020, using DE moving forward will be coded DE hours in WABERS using an appropriate and approved method. For both Teacher Verification and Learner Mastery models, instructors must predetermine and document how they count hours for completed assignments and assessments. This determination must be included in the course syllabus and made transparent to students.
Conferencing software, synchronous class meetings used for distance education should happen at a regularly scheduled time, and include substantive instruction. Quick check-ins, office hours, or unstructured class meeting time should not be counted towards distance education hours. In order to document participation in synchronous class meetings, instructors should create a mechanism for tracking these assignments within the proxy hour reporting method being used for the class Remember you cannot mix models though.
- Distance Education Reporting for Summer Quarter - See email dated 5.27.20 from Jodi Ruback Below you will find links to the Google Slideshow used in the presentation, as well as the video recording: [Distance Education Slideshow – May 2020](#) and [May 12, 2020 Distance Education Recording](#). *Note: Video captions will be added when available.*
Additionally, answers to questions posed about counting Zoom hours, I-BEST attendance, Teacher Verification Model reporting, and counting Distance Education hours in CBOs can be found in the [Distance Education Q&A Document](#). *(shared again, same as 6.5.20 summary)*
- [Financial Aid Dashboard](#) – presented by Travis Dulaney
Additional information located on the SBCTC Research [webpage](#)
Please note that this is a college access dashboard, must be logged into VPN to access if working from home.

Questions / Answers:

- Q) NSC – Question on paper records: we will have to go back to keeping paper records when normal operations resume?
- A) Records just need to be kept and available for review for monitoring purposes. We do not specify hard copy or electronic.

Comment) Lou Sager shared that they have had one student GED® test and more are scheduled, so things are moving forward there.

- Q) NSC – Question on Temporary Waiver from High School Graduation Requirements: is it good through 2021?
- A) Which temporary waiver are you asking about? The one where they applied as a Seattle District and was approved by SBE that allowed people to meet the 20-credit requirement? No, there is no plan to push this out any further out. So, beginning with students graduating next year, goes back to the 24-credits requirement.
- Q) Are you guys planning on program visits in the fall? North is schedule for fall visit.
- A) Yes, we are sticking to the schedule.
- Q) Whatcom - Is there a way to capture cuts/reductions to BEDA programs
- A) during the last recession, we weren't able to capture this data. However, Jon researched and found that enrollment was over 83,000 students as compared to about 43,000 where we are now, and we expect t that to double. During the last recession, we were able to capture what reductions were made to your programs from manyt of you; however, we did not hear from everyone. As we go through this process, we will be reaching out to all of you to find out the impact on your programs.
- Q) I needed to reschedule our monitoring visit that was scheduled for the fall. When will I find out about my rescheduled date?
- A) Scott is working on rescheduling visits for those that have reached out.
- Q) Will the monitoring visits be virtual if our campus is closed?
- A) No, for the schedule is set and we cannot forecast what Fall and Winter will look like. So we will be looking at visits and rescheduled for f2f.
- Q) LCC – will these COVID meetings be recorded and posted later?
- A) SBCTC will look into whether this is feasible or not due to captioning. SBCTC discussed this after the meeting and it was decided that we will continue to provide summaries from the COVID meetings rather than recordings.