

# BEEdA COVID-19 Messages

## June 8th - June 12th

This document will be used as a digest to catalogue all messages sent from the BEEdA office at SBCTC to the ABEDir listserv.

### [Table of contents \(live links\):](#)

#### [Cares Act](#)

[June 9 - Education Department backtracks on timing of new restrictions on CARES Act grants](#)

#### [ABILITY TO BENEFIT](#)

[June 7- IMPORTANT UPDATE & REMINDERS: Ability to Benefit Option 3 + Coding](#)

#### [Distance Education](#)

[June 9 - Distance Education Q&A](#)

#### [Distance Education](#)

[May 27 - Distance Ed Training \(Recording, Google Slideshow, & Summary\)](#)

## Cares Act

June 9 - Education Department backtracks on timing of new restrictions on CARES Act grants

FYI

Education Department backtracks on timing of new restrictions on CARES Act grants

By Michael Stratford

06/09/2020 02:44 PM EDT

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.

Democrats 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 today came as part of a lawsuit over the restrictions brought by California's community colleges.

WHAT'S NEXT: A federal judge in San Francisco later this afternoon is holding a virtual hearing on California's motion for a preliminary injunction blocking DeVos' guidance.

## ABILITY TO BENEFIT

June 7- IMPORTANT UPDATE & REMINDERS: Ability to Benefit Option 3 + Coding

Good morning CBS Colleagues,

Please see this important update on Ability to Benefit and Washington College Grant tracking from our equity champion in Student Services, Ha Nguyen! Reach out with any questions.

Best,

Will (wdurden@sbctc.edu)

**From:** Ha Nguyen <hnguyen@sbctc.edu>

Good morning, FAC colleagues:

I hope this email finds you well and rejuvenated over the weekend. Like many of you, I found myself vacillating between moments of deep despair and anger to flickers of hope for our collective humanity. Know that I am honored to work alongside all of you as we continue to find ways to open the doors of opportunity for our students of color and other minoritized students.

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.

However, thanks to the advocacy of SBCTC’s Director for Basic Skills, Jon Kerr, and I-BEST/Pathway Development policy associate, Will Durden, 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. Some important reminders are below:

#### **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.

Please reach out to me at any time should you have any questions, etc. Thank you again and again for all your continued work in this area.

Best,

Ha

## Distance Education

June 9 - Distance Education Q&A

Good Afternoon to You All,

I hope this finds you well.

We have updated the Distance Education Q&A document and wanted to share it with you. You can reach the document by following the link, [here](#).

Updates were made to the section on video conferencing class sessions and I-BEST.

If you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Have a great evening, and stay safe and healthy.

Troy ([tgoracke@sbctc.edu](mailto:tgoracke@sbctc.edu))

# Distance Education

May 27 - Distance Ed Training (Recording, Google Slideshow, & Summary)

Good afternoon,

Thank you all for attending the Distance Education Training sessions held on May 12<sup>th</sup> & May 14<sup>th</sup>, and asking lots of thoughtful questions. Below you will find links to the Google Slideshow used in the presentation, as well as the video recording:

- [Distance Education Slideshow – May 2020](#)
- [May 12, 2020 Distance Education Recording](#)

***Note: Video captions are pending. They will be added to the video 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](#).

If you have any additional questions, please let us know.

Best,

Jodi ([jruback@sctct.edu](mailto:jruback@sctct.edu)) & Troy ([tgoracke@sbctc.edu](mailto:tgoracke@sbctc.edu))