



*Building Connections. Advancing Equity. Promoting Success.*

# **Affordability, Access and Attainment: Policy and Practice**

Florida CAN Access & Success Summit  
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# Setting the Stage



# The Federal Update

- Funding the Federal Government
- Higher Education Act
- Department of Education
- Focus on FAFSA
- Advocacy by the College Access Field



# Fiscal Year 2017 Funding

- Restores Year-Round Pell Grant
- Removes \$1.3 billion from the Pell Grant reserve fund
- Increases TRIO funding \$50 million and GEAR UP funding \$17 million
- Retains Corporation for National and Community Service



# The “Skinny” Budget

- Removes \$3.9 billion for Pell Grant reserve fund
- “Reduces Federal Work-Study significantly”
- Cuts TRIO programs 10% and Gear Up 33%
- Eliminates AmeriCorps
- Full budget expected May 22



# What Will Congress Do?

- Supposed to pass 12 appropriations bills this summer for fiscal year 2018
- Reactions to Skinny Budget
- House Budget Proposal: Changes Pell Funding



# Higher Education Act

**PAST DUE**

- Last reauthorized in 2008
- Most parts of the bill just keep going
  - Except Perkins Loans, ACSFA
- House: New Chair, Rep Foxx of NC, holding hearings
- Senate: Focused on confirmations, possibly healthcare
- General consensus: 2018 at earliest



# Department of Education

- Department of Education staffing and priorities
  - No named Under or Deputy secretaries
  - Only handful of 200+ appointments named
  - Likely dozens could be left purposefully vacant
- Actions mostly regulatory in nature
  - Paused student loan portal development
  - Upheld termination of Corinthian college accreditor (ACICS)
  - Continuing with FSA ID improvements
  - Issued verification alternatives in light of IRS DRT outage





# Focus on FAFSA: Early FAFSA

Is it working?

- 1.1 million FAFSAs filed by HS seniors by Dec 30, 2016
- April 28, 2017 – 99% to way of total HS FAFSAs for 2016 seniors by graduation
- New baseline data because of change in birthday cut off

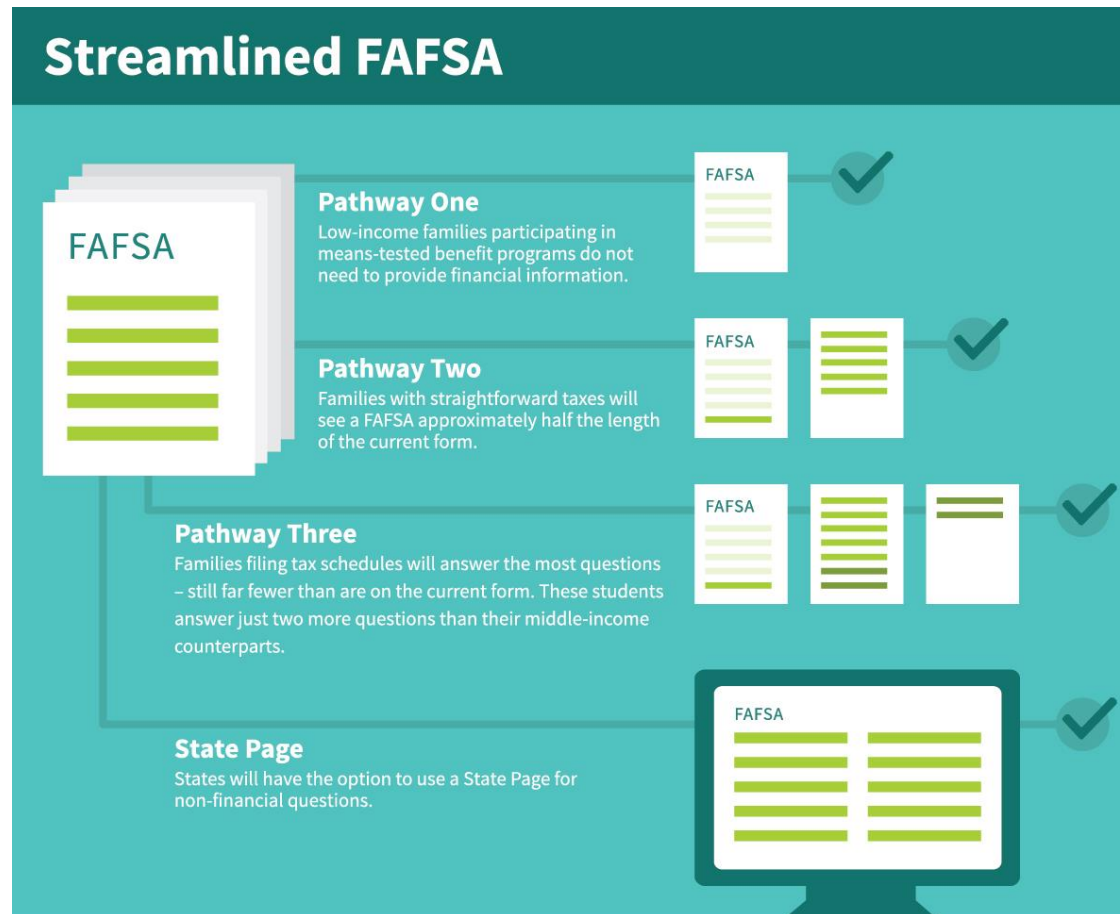


# Focus on FAFSA: DRT Outage

- Offline March 3
  - 17-18 FAFSA DRT won't return
  - 18-19 FAFSA DRT on Oct 1
- Income-Driven Repayment application also down – return by early June
- NCAN advocated with NASFAA, NACAC, and TICAS for verification alternatives
- Hold FSA to secure, usable DRT return on October 1, 2017.



# Focus on FAFSA: Simplification



# Advocacy by the College Access and Success Field

- Increased in interest in NCAN's advocacy activities
- Outreach from college access programs increased Congressional involvement in IRS DRT outage
- Informing FAFSA simplification bill from Rep. Doggett



# State Policy Agenda

- Financial
  - Focus on need-based financial aid
  - Establish a State Higher Education Funding Strategy
- Supports
  - Preparation (curriculum, test prep, school counselors)
  - Access (data management, deadlines)
  - Success (multiple pathways, transfer)
- Equity as theme throughout
- For more information, see <http://www.collegeaccess.org/statepolicy>



# Resources

- NCAN policy positions:
  - [www.collegeaccess.org/policy](http://www.collegeaccess.org/policy)
- NCAN blog:
  - [www.collegeaccess.org/blog](http://www.collegeaccess.org/blog)
- NCAN membership:
  - [http://www.collegeaccess.org/Join\\_NCAN](http://www.collegeaccess.org/Join_NCAN)
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