

ATTACHMENT A

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR HEA REAUTHORIZATION (NATIONAL)

The Federal Department's goal is to develop proposals that will 1) best use the significant levels of funding for the HEA programs, 2) build upon the successful results in those programs, 3) improve the quality of and access to postsecondary education, 4) promote greater emphasis on achieving results, 5) improve student achievement, and 6) ensure accountability for taxpayer funds.

The Secretary has already established several goals and objectives in the Department's strategic plan that relate directly to the programs authorized under the HEA:

Enhance the quality of and access to postsecondary and adult education.

Reduce the gaps in college access and completion among student populations differing by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability while increasing the educational attainment of all.

- Enhance efforts to prepare low-income and minority youth for college.
- Increase public communication about postsecondary options.
- Improve student support services.
- Highlight effective strategies for nontraditional students.
- Provide support to students with disabilities.

Strengthen accountability of postsecondary institutions.

- Refine the teacher quality accountability system mandated by Title II of the HEA.
- Create a reporting system on retention and completion that is useful for State accountability systems.

Establish effective funding mechanisms for postsecondary education.

- Investigate postsecondary funding strategies.
- Improve the efficiency of the Federal student aid process.

Strengthen HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs.

- Offer technical assistance for planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Assist in promoting the technology infrastructure of institutions serving low-income and minority students.
- Collaborate with HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs on K-12 improvement efforts.

Develop and maintain financial integrity and management and internal controls.

- Increase the use of performance-based contracting.

Manage information technology resources using electronic communication and record storage, to improve services for our customers and partners.

- Encourage customers to conduct business with the Department on-line.

Modernize the Federal Student Aid programs and reduce their high-risk status.

- Create a more efficient Federal student aid delivery system.
- Improve program monitoring.

Achieve budget and performance integration to link funding decisions to results.

- Document program effectiveness.

In addition, the Department also plans to apply its Department-wide objectives to programs authorized under the HEA:
Link Federal education funding to accountability for results.

- Create performance-based grants.

Increase flexibility and local control.

- Increase flexibility for grantees and recipients within Federal programs.

Increase information and options for parents.

- Expand choice in Federal programs.

Encourage the use of scientifically based methods within Federal education programs.

- Revise grant applications to reflect scientifically based research.
- Work with the Congress to embed scientifically based research in all Federal programs.

Improve the performance of all high school students.

- Increase learning options for students.

Improve teacher and principal quality.

- Reduce barriers to teaching for highly qualified individuals.
- Improve the quality of teacher preparation programs.

Leverage the contributions of community- and faith-based organizations to increase the effectiveness of Department programs.

- Provide technical assistance and outreach.
- Remove regulatory barriers to the full participation of faith-based organizations.
- Implement novice applicant procedures.
- Eliminate statutory barriers to full participation of faith-based organizations.