



# Accreditation

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# Overview of Activities



## March - April

- Board staff began background research
- Bi-weekly meetings of university accreditation liaisons began mid-April

## May

- Chancellor & Florida College System staff had initial meetings with leaders of potential accreditors
- Board staff collaborated with university staff to develop questions for accreditors

## June - July

- Chancellor met with U.S. Department of Education Undersecretary
- University staff compiled & submitted information on costs & processes
- Completed follow-up meetings with staff from potential accreditors
- University liaisons evaluated standards
- Vice Chancellor met with U.S. Department of Education staff

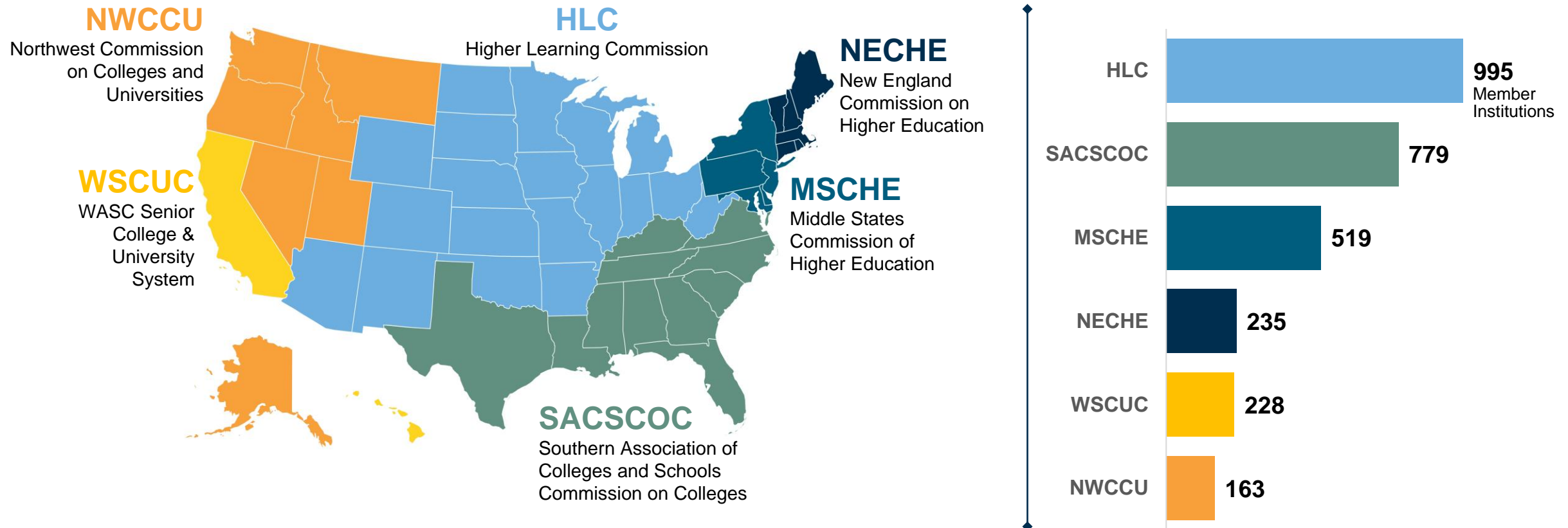
## August

- Collaborated with university liaisons to finalize report

# Regional Accreditors



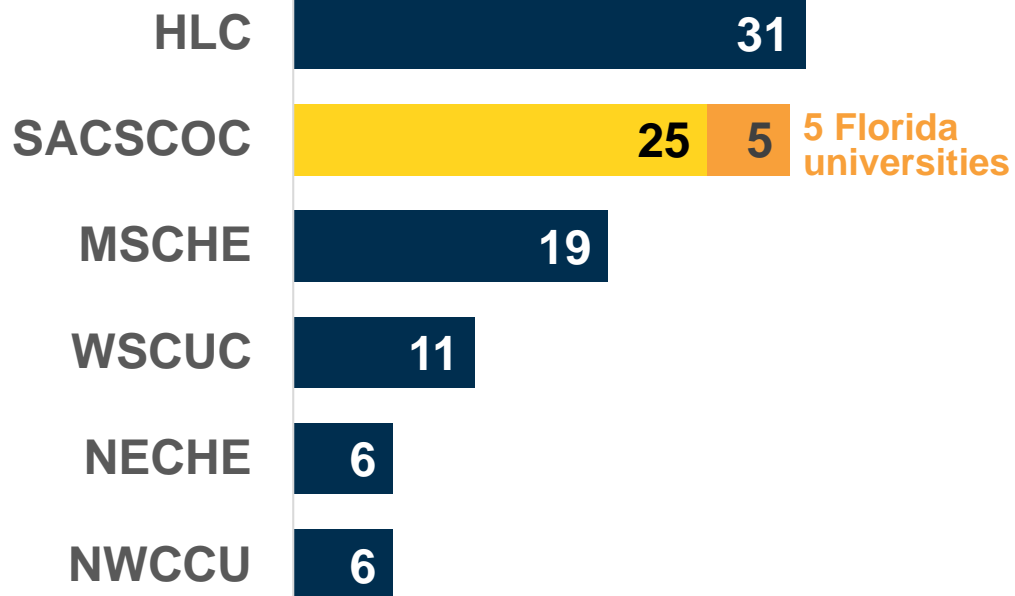
In 2020, Federal Rule changed to allow accreditors to work with universities outside of the traditional regional boundaries



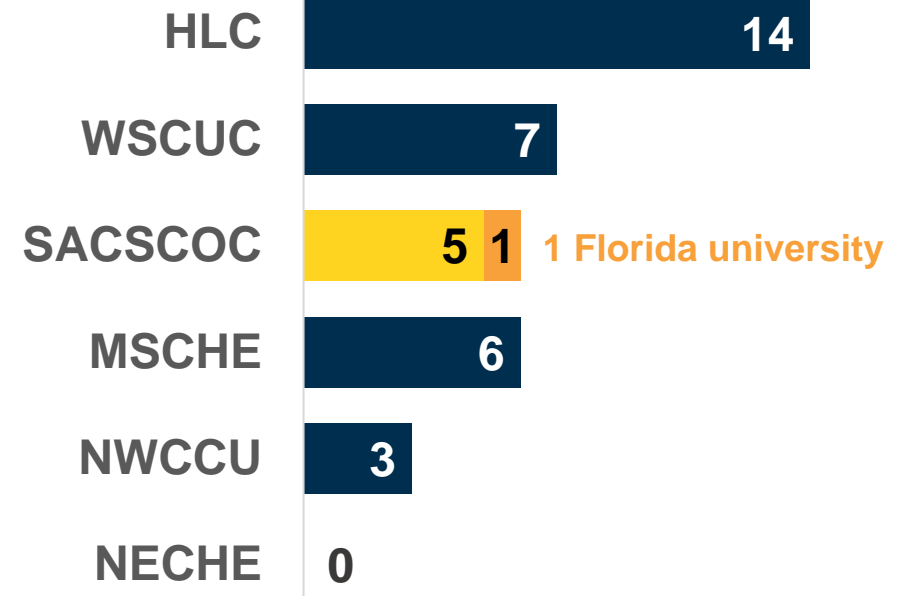
# Accreditor Member Universities



## U.S. News & World Report Top 100 Public Universities\*



## Association of American Universities



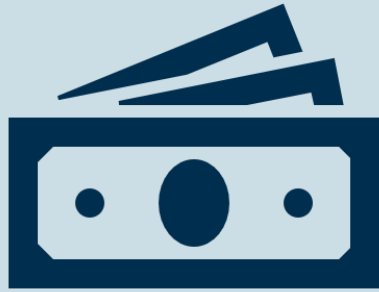
\*Total number of institutions exceeds 100 due to ties in the rankings.



**All regional  
accreditors must meet  
U.S. Department of  
Education  
requirements**

- **Standards are designed to emphasize quality & student success**
- **Universities distinguish themselves by going beyond the standards to achieve a higher level of quality**
- **All six accreditors have generally comparable standards relative to the following**
  - Integrity
  - Mission
  - Eligibility
  - Governance
  - Administration & organization
  - Faculty
  - Planning & effectiveness
  - Student achievement
  - Academic programs
  - Academic & student support services
  - Financial & physical resources
  - Library & learning/information resources
  - Transparency & institutional representation
  - Educational policies, procedures, & practices

# Current SACSCOC Annual Costs



**Most costs are university expenses**

Expenses & workload will temporarily increase during the transition to a new accreditor



## University Expenses

- ✓ Personnel
- ✓ Consultants
- ✓ Software
- ✓ Site visits
- ✓ Reporting requirements
- ✓ Accreditation cycle



Annual Average  
**\$11M - \$13M**



## Accreditation Fees

- ✓ Start-up fees
- ✓ Monitoring / Reaffirmation fees
- ✓ Annual dues



Annual Average  
**\$220K - \$250K**

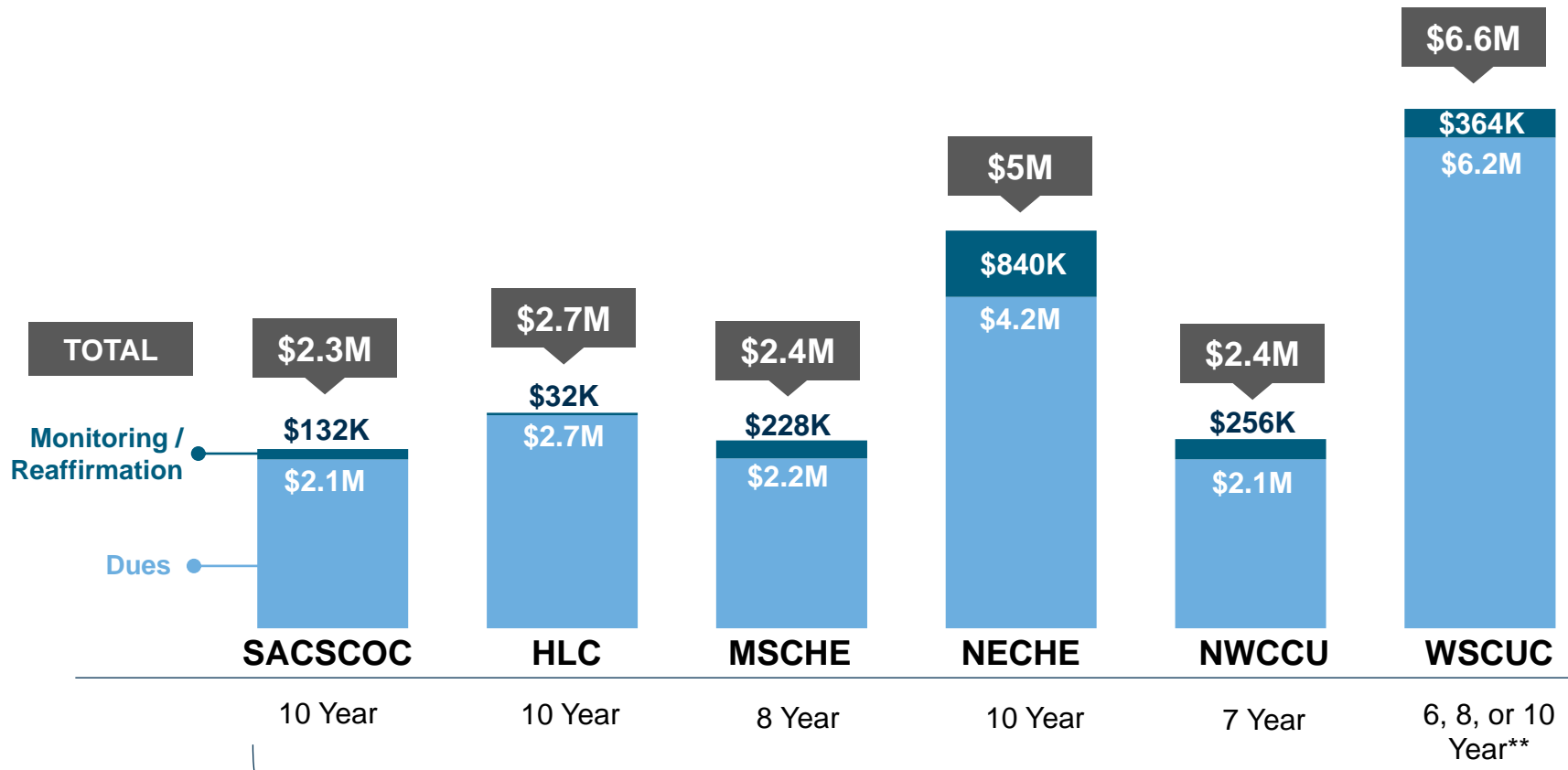
# Estimated Accreditation Cycle Costs\*



## Fees Paid to Accreditor



## University Expenses



Changing accreditors likely will not significantly change annual university expenses

\*Accreditation Cycle Length

\*\* 10-year cycle is used for the estimate.

# Final Observations



State University System accreditation liaisons note there is a beneficial synergy to having all universities accredited by the same accreditor



Each accreditor's governing board determines the extent to which an accreditor can expand membership

	HLC	MSCHE	NECHE	NWCCU	WSCUC
Member Institutions	995	519	235	163	228
High-quality Standards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10+ Member Institutions in National Leadership Positions	✓	✓			✓
Planning for Substantive Growth	✓	✓	^	^	✓
Accelerated Process	✓	In development	✓	✓	✓
Estimated Accreditation Cycle Fees*	\$2.7M	\$2.4M	\$5M	\$2.4M	\$6.6M

Multiple pathways for universities to improve efficiency



Does not accredit institutions whose primary mission is to grant associate degrees

\*This does not include university expenses such as personnel, consultants, site visits, & software.

^Because of their current size, NECHE & NWCC may expand beyond traditional regional boundaries at a more moderate pace than the others.



# Next Steps: Federal Approval



**Changing  
accreditors is a  
multi-step process**

U.S. Department of  
Education provides  
initial approval & final  
acknowledgment

## Process

- ① Universities must receive approval from the U.S. Department of Education to switch accreditors. Universities must provide
  - ✓ accreditation & preaccreditation materials
  - ✓ reasonable cause
- ② Apply for membership with a different accreditor while maintaining SACSCOC accreditation
- ③ Receive membership from a different accreditor & notify U.S. Department of Education
- ④ Maintain accreditation with SACSCOC until the U.S. Department of Education has provided written notice that it acknowledges the change in accreditor

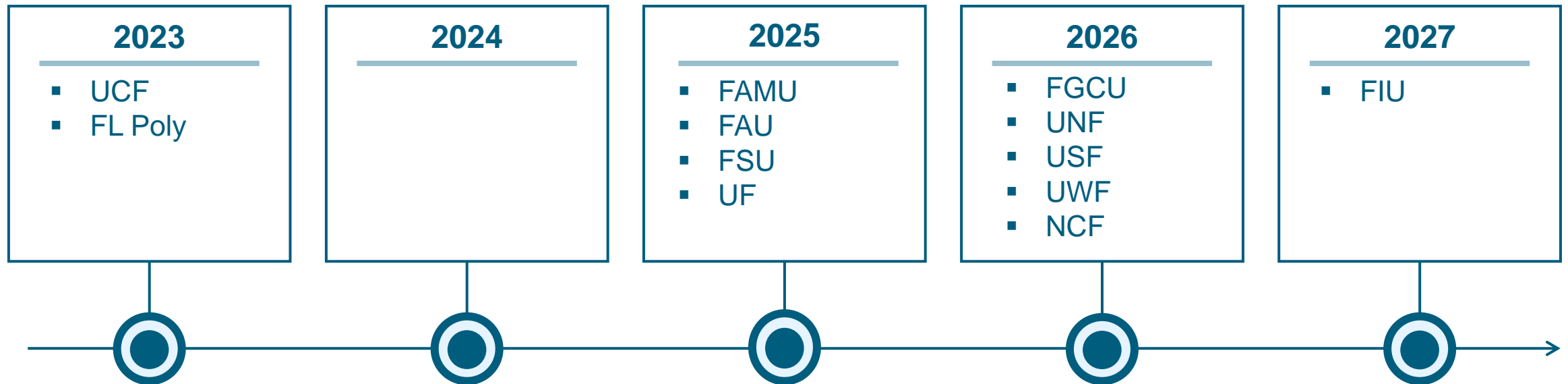
## Voluntary Membership

U.S. Department of Education only recognizes accreditors with voluntary membership

# Next Steps: Timeline & Activities



**Universities will begin the process of switching accreditors after their next reaffirmation or fifth-year review\***



Universities will provide regular reports to the Board & participate in regular meetings with Board staff

\*Dates universities will initiate the change in accreditor are dependent upon the outcome of each university's review & are subject to change.



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