NAICU

The End of the Pandemic: COVID-Related Federal Provisions that are Set to Expire

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Poll - What is the status of the national emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

• The national emergency will end on May 11, 2023

• The national emergency will end on June 30, 2023

• The national emergency ended on April 10, 2023

• The national emergency ended on March 13, 2023

• Don’t know
Key Dates

- **Mar. 13 2020**: COVID-19 National Emergency declared
- **Feb. 10 2023**: Biden declared May 11 the end of the National Emergency
- **April 10 2023**: Congress passed and Biden signed bill ending emergency on April 10

3 years of policy flexibilities across the government affecting higher education students and institutions
Agenda

• HEA Provisions

• SNAP for College Students

• Employer Benefits

• International Students

• Veteran Students

• HEERF Funds Reporting & Accountability
HEA Provisions

Wide-ranging

Unveiled throughout 2020

Various termination dates, including:

- 180 days following end of national emergency
- End of the payment period that begins after the end of the national emergency
HEA Flexibilities Cover Areas Such As…..

- Student aid programs
- Title IV participation and administration
- Accreditation
- Accountability
- Change in ownership
- Distance education
A Sampling of Areas of Flexibilities that Will End

- Accreditation site visit and interim review requirements
- Institutional approvals to offer distance education
- Title IV credit balances for students
- Federal Work-Study community service requirements
- Leave of absence determinations
Repayment Pause Caught Up in Politics of Student Loan Forgiveness

Loan forgiveness before the Supreme Court

Repayment pause extended to 60-days after June 30th
HEA: Information Sources for More Help

**NAICU Washington Update**

**Federal Register Notice**

**Deadlines for COVID-19 Flexibilities**
SNAP eligibility for college students was expanded and made more flexible

- Zero EFC or Federal Work-Study (FWS) eligible
- FWS eligibility counted as work requirement but did not have to work
- About 3 million students made eligible

FWS students will have to work once emergency expires
SNAP eligibility before June 9 can extend for a year

Pre-Pandemic Student Exemptions under SNAP continue:

- Under age 17 or older than age 50
- Receiving TANF benefits
- Working and getting paid a minimum of 20 hours per week
- Participating in state or federal work-study program during the regular school year
- Responsible for a dependent household member under the age of 6
- Responsible for a dependent household member between the ages 6 and 12 without adequate childcare
- Single parent responsible for a dependent child under age 12 and enrolled full-time
Tax Benefits

• Enacted in 2020 and have already expired
  • Charitable Giving Incentives
  • Employee Retention Tax Credit—*backlog in pending claims*
  • Payroll Tax Deferral
  • Reimbursable tax credits for paid sick and family medical leave

• Section 127 expansion to include student loan repayment

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**EXPIRES**

2025
International Students

International students returned to their home countries or stayed in the U.S. during the pandemic

• There were flexibilities to allow remote/online studies

As travel restrictions eased, students faced ongoing problems with closed or understaffed consular offices and visa delay issues

• Level of continuing issues vary among countries and consulates
Veteran Students: Pandemic Flexibilities

- VA SUSPENDED ENROLLMENT CERTIFICATION TO ALLOW ONLINE COURSES
- AUTHORIZED VA WORK STUDY PAYMENTS WITHOUT JOBS
- REINSTATED “LOST MONTHS” OF ELIGIBILITY
Bill enacted to protect veteran students from losing access to GI Bill benefits in future national emergencies

After the pandemic, veteran students will need to ensure the course modality (online v. in-person) they enroll in is eligible for GI Bill benefits

Veteran Students: Permanent Changes Made
Institutions must continue to report until all funds expended

Political and legal review of fund expenditure will continue

Preserve ALL records
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Questions