
Appendix E: Selected Department Web Links and Education Resources

College Cost Lists

The Department provides college affordability and transparency lists under the *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008*. Each list is broken out into nine different sectors to allow students to compare costs at similar types of institutions, including career and technical programs. <http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/>

College Navigator

The Department provides a multi-dimensional review of higher education options for students and provides links to other sites. <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Scorecards

College Scorecards in the Department's College Affordability and Transparency Center make it easier to find out more about a college's affordability and value. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card>

One-Stop Shopping for Student Loans

The Department provides a site from which students can manage their loans. <http://studentloans.gov/>

College Preparation Checklist

This Departmental tool gives prospective college students step-by-step instructions on how to prepare academically and financially for education beyond high school. Each section is split into sub-sections for students and parents, explaining what needs to be done and which publications or websites might be useful to them. <http://studentaid.ed.gov>

Additional resources within the checklist assist students in finding scholarships and grants.

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/checklist/main.html>

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/checklist/MoreSourcesOfStudentAid.html>

College Completion Toolkit

The College Completion Toolkit provides information that governors and other state leaders can use to help colleges in their states increase student completion rates. It highlights key strategies and offers models to learn from, as well as other useful resources. <http://www.ed.gov/sites/default/files/cc-toolkit.pdf>

Resources for Adult and Career and Technical Education

The Department, through the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network, offers resources and tools for the development and implementation of comprehensive career guidance programs.

This includes guides for students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators across relevant topics, such as planning and exploring careers, selecting institutions, finances, and guidance evaluation. This source is an example of interdepartmental cooperation between the Department and the U.S. Department of Labor.

http://cte.ed.gov/nationalinitiatives/gandctools.cfm?&pass_dis=1

The Department, through the Literacy Information and Communications Systems (LINCS), offers resources and tools for the development and implementation of comprehensive adult education programs. The LINCS seek to expand evidence-based practice in the field of adult literacy through on-demand, web-based professional development opportunities; targeted training and high-quality resources; and an interactive online learning community that provides opportunities for networking and information sharing among adult educators.

<https://lincs.ed.gov/>

Program Inventory

The *GPRA Modernization Act of 2010*, P.L. 111-352, requires that OMB establish a single website with a central inventory of all federal programs, including the purpose of each program and its contribution to the mission and goals of the Department. In 2013, the Department describes each program within 27 budgetary accounts, as well as how the programs support the Department's broader strategic goals and objectives.

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/inventory.pdf>

Grants Information and Resources

In addition to student loans and grants, the Department offers other discretionary grants, which are awarded using a competitive process, and formula grants, which use formulas determined by Congress with no application process. This site lists Department discretionary grant competitions previously announced, as well as those planned for later announcement, for new awards organized according to the Department's principal program offices.

<http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>

For more information on the Department's programs, see

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/gtep/gtep.pdf>.

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) provides easily accessible resources in a wide gamut of subjects for educators. The tool breaks resources into categories, ranging from art and music to science and mathematics. It also offers a wide variety of primary documents, photos, and videos. In addition, FREE allows educators to follow via Twitter, a social network, which facilitates the sharing of ideas. This tool acts as a depository of ideas and resources for educators to help them supplement their lessons. <http://free.ed.gov/>

Practice Guides for Educators

The Department offers guides that help educators address everyday challenges they face in their classrooms and schools. Developed by a panel of nationally recognized experts, practice guides consist of actionable recommendations, strategies for overcoming potential roadblocks, and an indication of the strength of evidence supporting each recommendation. The guides themselves are subjected to rigorous external peer review. Users can sort by subject area, academic level, and intended audience to find the most recent, relevant, and useful guides.

http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Publications_Reviews.aspx?f=All%20Publication%20and%20Review%20Types,3;#pubsearch

Performance Data

EDFacts is a Department initiative to put performance data at the center of policy, management, and budget decisions for all K–12 educational programs.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/index.html>

Condition of Education and Digest of Education Statistics

The Condition of Education is a congressionally mandated annual report that summarizes developments and trends in education using the latest available statistics. The report presents statistical indicators containing text, figures, and data from early learning through graduate-level education. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/>

The primary purpose of the Digest of Education Statistics is to provide a compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from pre-kindergarten through graduate school. The Digest includes a selection of data from many sources, both government and private, and draws especially on the results of surveys and activities carried out by the National Center for Education Statistics. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>

Projections of Education Statistics to 2022

For the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the tables, figures, and text in this report contain data on projections of public elementary and secondary enrollment and public high school graduates to the year 2022. The report includes a methodology section that describes the models and assumptions used to develop national and state-level projections.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2014051>

Open Government Initiative

The Department's Open Government Initiative is designed to improve the way the Department shares information, learns from others, and collaborates to develop the best solutions for America's students. <http://www2.ed.gov/about/open.html>

National Assessment of Educational Progress

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses samples of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 in various academic subjects. Results of the assessments are reported for the nation and states in terms of achievement levels—*Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*.

<http://nationsreportcard.gov/>

Government Accountability Office

The Government Accountability Office supports Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and helps improve the performance and accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people. <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/agency.php>

Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General conducts independent and objective audits, investigations, inspections, and other activities to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Department's programs and operations. <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/index.html>

For a list of recent reports, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/reports.html>.