
Appendix F: 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 multidimensional review of higher education options for students and provides links to other sites. <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

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>

College Scorecard

The College Scorecard tool in the Department's College Affordability and Transparency Center makes it easier to find out more about a college's affordability and value. The College Scorecard has been redesigned as a tool that further commits to the administration's Open Data Initiative and incorporates direct input from students, families, and their advisers to provide the clearest, most accessible, and most reliable national data on college cost, graduation, debt, and postcollege earnings. The old way of assessing college choices relied on static ratings lists compiled by someone who was deciding what value to place on different factors. The new way of assessing college choices, with the help of technology and open data, makes it possible for anyone—a student, a school, a policymaker, or a researcher—to decide which factors to evaluate. <http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/index.aspx>

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 subsections 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>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>

College Completion Toolkit

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

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 Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS) is a Department Initiative that seeks to expand evidence-based practice in the field of adult literacy. LINCS provides high-quality, on-demand educational opportunities to practitioners of adult education in order to help adult learners successfully transition to postsecondary education and employment. LINCS is comprised of three components: 1) the LINCS Resource Collection provides free online access to high-quality, evidence-based materials and self-access courses to help practitioners and state and local staff improve programs, services, instruction, and teacher quality; 2) LINCS Regional Professional Development Centers work with states to offer practitioners training and professional development activities; and 3) LINCS Community provides an online social learning space (a community of practice) for networking, information sharing, and collaboration among adult education leadership, professional developers, administrative staff, and practitioners across the country. <http://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. The initial Federal Program Inventory was published in May 2013. The Department described each program within 27 budgetary accounts, as well as how the programs support the Department's broader Strategic Goals and Objectives.

Since that time, Congress passed the *Data Accountability and Transparency Act* (DATA Act) requiring new public reporting requirements, which impact the definition of program used in this guidance. OMB is currently working with agencies to merge the implementation of the DATA Act and the Federal Program Inventory requirements to the extent possible to avoid duplicative efforts. While OMB and agencies determine the right implementation strategy, the initial Federal Program Inventory remains available on performance.gov or at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/inventory.pdf>.

Grants Information and Resources

In addition to student loans and grants, the Department offers other discretionary grants. These 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>.

Practice Guides for Educators

The Department offers guides that help educators address everyday challenges faced in 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

Performance Data

EDFacts is a Department initiative and data repository 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 prekindergarten 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 NCES. <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>

Projections of Education Statistics to 2021

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 2021. 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=2013008>

National Assessment of Educational Progress

The National Assessment of Educational Progress 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>.