



Department of Education

Public Law 115-336, “21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act”

December 2019 Report

Prepared for Congress per the requirements of section 3(b)(2) of Public Law 115-336.

21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act - Report to Congress on Modernizing Agency Websites and Digital Services

As required by section 3(b)(2) of Public Law 115–336¹, the ‘21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (“IDEA”), this report includes a list of key websites and digital services operated by the Department of Education (“ED”) that have been prioritized for modernization.

Background

IDEA requires each federal executive branch agency to provide a prioritized list of the agency’s “most-viewed or ... otherwise important” public websites and digital services in compliance with section 3(a) of the law, and to provide an estimation of the cost and schedule to modernize those sites and services.

Key Websites and Digital Services

ED has identified the following websites and digital services as those that are most viewed or utilized by the public or are otherwise important for public engagement.

- FAFSA.GOV - Provides students, financial aid offices, and libraries with online access to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- STUDENTLOANS.GOV - Allows students to complete submission and signing of master promissory notes for Direct Subsidized / Unsubsidized student loans and Direct PLUS loans (parents). The site also provides entrance counseling for student loans.
- STUDENTAID.GOV - Mobile-responsive website that receives more than 40 million annual visits (and an average of 3 million users per month) and serves as Federal Student Aid’s flagship site for students and borrowers.
- ED.GOV – ED’s primary information dissemination platform through which ED delivers the Secretary’s message and shares information with the public regarding the nation’s education programs.

Modernization Priorities

ED has prioritized the key websites and digital services listed above for modernization. The below table includes current estimated costs of modernization for each to comply with the requirements in section 3(a) of IDEA and current estimated modernization schedules. The figures listed below reflect current

¹ 132 Stat. 5025-5028.

estimates of the anticipated level of effort and resources that would be needed to modernize each site, are subject to change, and are not intended as a request for funding or a commitment by ED to obligate such funds.

Website or Digital Service	Current Estimated Cost	Current Estimated Schedule
FAFSA.GOV	\$5,000,000	Site will be consolidated with StudentAid.gov in Fiscal Year 2021
STUDENTLOANS.GOV	\$6,000,000	Site being consolidated with new StudentAid.gov website in early Fiscal Year 2020
STUDENTAID.GOV	\$15,000,000	Multiple websites and services being integrated under the new StudentAid.gov site from Fiscal Year 2019 through Fiscal Year 2021
ED.GOV	\$1,500,000	Fiscal Year 2020 – Fiscal Year 2021

Questions

For any questions, please contact Walter McDonald, Director of Information Technology Program Services (ITPS) at (202) 245-6794.