



# College Affordability and Transparency Legislation

Act 69 of 2024

Roundtable Discussion

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Pennsylvania  
Department of Education

# Agenda

- [Act 69 of 2024](#)
- New statutory requirements and reporting
- What are you already providing?



# Act 69 of 2024

- Act 69 of 2024 added three sections to the Public School Code:
  - [Section 2004-H Student Fee Transparency \(24 P.S. § 2004-H\)](#)
  - [Section 2005-H Higher Education Cost Transparency \(24 P.S. § 2005-H\)](#)
  - [Section 2006-H Exit Counseling \(24 P.S. § 2006-H\)](#)
- Act was signed into law July 17, 2024
- New provisions apply to all institutions of higher education (IHE) authorized to operate in Pennsylvania, including all postsecondary private licensed schools



# Student Fee Transparency ([Section 2004-H](#))

- Requires IHEs to publish all mandatory fees along with a fee description prior to the term in which the fee will be charged and included on a student's tuition bill
- Mandatory fee is defined as “a charge imposed by an IHE to all the institution's students, irrespective of their course or admission status, for enrollment or attendance for items not covered by tuition, room, or board fees.”



# Mandatory Fee Information for Students

- Mandatory fees and descriptions must be published on the IHE's website and online student portal
- Fee description must include the following information:
  - General purpose of the mandatory fee
  - How the mandatory fee is expected to be allocated and used
  - How the mandatory fee will be collected and the academic year or semester for which the fee will be charged
- **IHEs have until the start of the spring 2025 semester to post fee information for the 2024-25 academic year**



# Annual Report of Total Mandatory Fees Collected

- **Each IHE must annually publish the following information on its website for the prior academic year:**
  - Total amount of mandatory fees collected
  - Amount of mandatory fees collected to each use
- **November 15, 2025** – IHEs submit the above information for the 2024-25 academic year (by Nov. 15 each year thereafter)
- **No later than June 30, 2026** – IHEs submit a link to their fee information to PDE (by June 30 each year thereafter)



# Higher Education Cost Transparency ([Section 2005-H](#))

By the start of the Spring 2025 semester, each IHE must do the following:

- Post online the estimated cost of all tuition, fees, room, and board that may be charged in an academic year
- Provide prospective students with the following information as part of the admission or financial aid process:
  - Estimate of total cost of attendance
  - Estimate of financial aid offered by the IHE
  - Estimate of the net cost that subtracts any scholarships or grants being offered from the estimated total cost of attendance
  - Estimate of the total cost of attendance for subsequent years



# Estimated Cost of Attendance

Estimated cost of attendance must include the following:

- Tuition for the student's first academic year
- A list of each fee (mandatory and optional) charged to a student in the student's first academic year
- A breakdown of all room and board options and the costs associated with each option for the student's first academic year
- Books and supplies





# Estimate of Financial Aid & Net Cost

- At minimum, the estimate of the financial aid offered by the IHE must include the following:
  - All grants or scholarships that do not require repayment
  - Student loans that require repayment
  - Student employment options
- An estimate of the net cost that subtracts any scholarships or grants being offered from the estimated total cost of attendance



# Total Cost of Attendance for Future Years

Estimated total cost of attendance for subsequent years must include:

- Information regarding whether financial aid is being offered only for the academic year or if it is renewable for subsequent academic years. If financial aid is renewable, IHE must include any requirements that must be met for renewal.
- A history of the previous academic year's tuition
- Estimated total tuition that the student will be charged in each academic year necessary for the student to receive a degree in the student's major
- Estimated total amount of fees charged to a student in each academic year necessary for the student to receive a degree in the student's major



# Higher Education Cost Transparency

- Information must be in easily understood terms
- IHE must clearly identify each piece of financial aid that a student must repay



# Financial Aid Exit Counseling ([Section 2006-H](#))

- IHEs must make financial aid exit counseling available to each student at the end of the student's final academic term, unless the student elects not to participate
- Counseling may be in-person or online
- IHEs may partner with PHEAA or a similar entity to provide the counseling
- Federal Student Aid Federal Loan Exit Counseling does not supplant this requirement



# Financial Aid Exit Counseling Requirements

- Exit counseling must include:
  - A list of all available federal and state programs including related websites and contact information that may assist with payments, reductions, or forgiveness of student loans
  - All available repayment options on student loans and a link to an online student loan repayment calculator
  - When a student's loan repayment begins and information on delaying repayment
- When a student transfers or withdraws:
  - IHE must attempt to make counseling available
  - If the IHE is unable to connect with the student, the IHE must mail the above information to the student's last known address



# Implementation Timeline

- ❑ **By the start of the Spring 2025 semester:**
  - ❑ Post mandatory fees/descriptions for the 2024-25 academic year on website and student portal
  - ❑ Begin providing prospective students with cost and financial aid information as part of the admission or financial aid offer process
  - ❑ Make exit counseling available to students at end of their final term
- ❑ **November 15, 2025** – Post total amount of mandatory fees collected and how those fees were used for 2024-25 academic year
- ❑ **January-March 2026** – Submit Assurance of Compliance as part of annual higher education reporting to PDE
- ❑ **June 30, 2026** – Submit a link to where mandatory student fee information is published on the IHE's website





# Contact/Mission

For more information on College Affordability and Transparency please visit PDE's website at [Financial | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

*The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. Further, the Department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.*

