



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

May 12, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

I received your invitation to participate in a forum you are hosting this Wednesday. While I do not have faith that your forum would elicit a fair and productive dialogue, I would welcome the opportunity to sit down with you in the future and discuss this Administration's goal to make American education the greatest in the world.

In the meantime, I will not stand by and allow false and hyper-political narratives to be spread about the bold reforms this Administration is undertaking to improve postsecondary education in America. I would like to refute a few of the baseless accusations included in your note.

The fearmongering of your language about the impact of the Department's Reduction in Force (RIF) is unfounded. Federal Student Aid (FSA) continues to disburse more than \$100 billion in grants and loans to millions of students across the country, and staff have been diligently working through many of the unresolved issues left by the Biden Administration. Additionally, as noted in a March 14th letter¹ from Acting Under Secretary James Bergeron, "no employees working on core functions of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or student loan servicing were impacted by the RIF."

The federal student loan program was left in disarray due to the previous Administration's fixation on transferring student debt to taxpayers. Millions of borrowers have been stuck in forbearance because of illegal loan forgiveness and repayment plans dreamed up by overzealous bureaucrats. This is only compounded by the millions of student borrowers stuck in default for more than five years without any proactive communication to help them get back into repayment and clear their credit reports. There were also institutions that had been waiting years for what should have been routine compliance to participate in the federal student aid programs.

Under the Trump Administration, FSA is performing efficiently, delivering on all statutory functions for the American people, and helping struggling borrowers get the help that they need to get back on their feet. This Administration is prioritizing what is actually critical for students and parents. After months of chaos, FAFSA is operational and accessible for student borrowers and their families. There have not been issues with the FAFSA that come anywhere close to the utter mismanagement under the last administration.

Additional statistics are available in Acting Undersecretary Bergeron's blog post² from April 11, 2025:

- 92% of users report satisfaction with the FAFSA experience;

¹ March 14 Letter from Acting Undersecretary James Bergeron: <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2025-03-17/acting-under-secretary-james-bergeron-letter-education-stakeholders-march-14-2025>

² The FAFSA® Form is Working—and Getting Better Every Day <https://blog.ed.gov/2025/04/the-fafsa-form-is-working-and-getting-better-every-day/>

- 10 million 2025–26 FAFSA forms had been submitted since the form launched in fall 2024 (and this number has grown since April 11!);
- 2.7 million more FAFSA forms have been submitted this cycle compared to last year (39% growth), as well as 400,000 additional applications (4.3% growth) over the 2023–24 cycle, last time the form launched on Oct. 1; and
- 85% of questions are now resolved by our newly improved virtual assistant, Aidan.

Returning education to the states and responsibly transferring Department of Education responsibilities to better-suited agencies is far from limiting access to higher education. Instead, the Trump Administration is committed to getting the federal student loan portfolio on a sustainable path,³ even encouraging colleges and universities to do their part to support borrowers⁴ in repayment.

Contrary to your framing that we are “stealing the American Dream,” the Trump Administration is empowering students and families with information and holding institutions accountable for outcomes. We want higher education to be a good investment for students, not a cash cow for endowed institutions. We will always put students above the higher education establishment.

I sincerely hope we can have productive conversations about the future of education in our Nation. Since its inception in 1980, Congress has appropriated over \$3 trillion to the Department of Education with virtually no improvement in our students’ test scores. The Department has perpetuated a narrative that students must borrow beyond their means to get a degree with questionable value, forcing future generations to take on over \$1.6 trillion in student loan debt. What we are doing is simply not working.

I look forward to continuing to set the record straight about the real reforms happening in this Administration. I will soon testify in front of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies that oversee higher education to discuss the President’s budget request with Congress and in front of the American people. I wish you the best of luck with your forum.

Sincerely,



Linda E. McMahon
U.S. Secretary of Education

³ U.S. Department of Education to Begin Federal Student Loan Collections, Other Actions to Help Borrowers Get Back into Repayment <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-begin-federal-student-loan-collections-other-actions-help-borrowers-get-back-repayment>

⁴ U.S. Department of Education Reminds Colleges and Universities of Their Obligations to Help Struggling Borrowers <https://www.ed.gov/about/news/press-release/us-department-of-education-reminds-colleges-and-universities-of-their-obligations-help-struggling-borrowers>