

# NASFAA Institutional Ratings

# Purpose & Goals

1. help colleges and universities measure, benchmark, and continue to improve across the shared principles of access, affordability, and outcomes;
2. help students and families make informed choices about searching for and selecting a college; and
3. enable the incentives and accountability structure in the federal student aid program to be properly aligned to these key principles.

# College Access Metrics

- The percentage of students at an institution who receive Federal Pell Grants; (IPEDS)
- “The average difference between some focal EFC level and each student’s individual EFC (with negative values treated as zero),” (FAFSA/NSLDS)
- Family income, broken into income quintiles; (FAFSA)
- Percentage of students enrolled at an institution that did not have a parent who attended college. (FAFSA)

# Affordability Metrics

- Average net price; (IPEDS)
- Net price by quintile; (IPEDS)

# Student Outcome Metrics

- Average loan debt (noteworthy is that this is being considered as a performance metric, not an affordability metric);
- College completion I; (IPEDS)
- College completion II; (NSLDS)
- Transfer rates (currently reported voluntarily; ED particularly solicits comment on specific aspects of this measure); (Voluntarily through IPEDS; Proposed NSLDS)
- Employment and earnings; (??)
- Graduate school attendance within a defined period of time following undergraduate completion; (NSC/NSLDS)
- Loan repayment rate (NSLDS)

# Institutional Data?

Under Consideration: Allowing alternative sources of data to supplement, but not supplant their information in the ratings system.

# Ratings Tiers & Groupings (Not Ranking)

- The rating system will likely assign institutions into one of three tiers, with the majority of schools likely to fall into the middle tier.
- ED is still working on how to measure and include performance over time, to recognize schools that may be showing improvement in certain areas without crossing the threshold between tiers.
- **Institutional Groupings:** ED intends to group schools into comparison groups based on being primarily a four-year institution or primarily a two-year institution. *Graduate-only and non-degree granting institutions will not be included in the rankings at first, nor will graduate programs at schools that also enroll undergraduates.*

# NASFAA Actions

- Peers in PIRS: Challenges & Considerations For Rating Groups Of Postsecondary Institutions,
- PIRS panel discussion hosted by Association of Public and Land Grant Universities;
- Higher Education Community Sign-on Letter;
- NASFAA testimony to Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance



# NASFAA Concerns Overview

- Department of Education Process
- Limitations of possible metrics
- Importance of quality data
- Input-adjustment of metrics
- Peer groups
- Importance of consumer testing



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