



Independent Educational Consultants Association
3251 Blenheim Blvd, Suite 510
Fairfax, Virginia 22030 • 703-591-4850
Leigh R. Allen II, CEO, Lallen@IECAonline.com

College Transparency Act

The College Transparency Act is a bipartisan bill that ensures greater transparency regarding student outcomes at postsecondary institutions. This bill will provide students and their families with better information for evaluating which higher education institution to attend. This bill will also help colleges better evaluate their programs and employers better understand which students meet their needs. The bill modernizes the college reporting system by providing accurate information about outcomes while securely protecting the privacy of individual students.

The current college reporting system is overly burdensome yet provides little useful information due to gaps in reporting. This bill would standardize and streamline college reporting information such as total cost, financial aid, enrollment, completion rates, and potential salaries across majors. This bill will create a user-friendly website that gives students a clear understanding of the return on investment in higher education, helping them make better decisions about which schools and programs of study are best suited to their unique needs. It will also promote better outcomes by aiding colleges and policymakers in their work to improve our country's post-secondary education system and assist businesses and other employers in finding potential employees best suited for a particular field.

Importantly, this bill would keep student data private. Institutions would report student-level data to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), which would be responsible for securely storing this information. NCES would also work with relevant agencies to generate reports on student outcomes after they graduate from institutions, and then share this information in a user-friendly way on a website accessible by the public.

In our work with students and their families, IECA's members witness firsthand the difficulty of finding reliable, consistent data that can help students decide where to attend post-secondary school. Modernizing the college reporting system for postsecondary data would be a big step toward making informed decisions about which college is best for them.

Cosponsor the College Transparency Act to:

- Equip families with accurate data on student outcomes like enrollment, completion, and post-college earnings across colleges and majors.
- Help students better understand graduation rates, course selection, costs, and financial aid.
- Aid institutions of learning improve our nation's post-secondary education system through access to consistent, reliable, accurate data, all while reducing unnecessary and unhelpful reporting burdens.
- Give employers data necessary to help find potential employees.

The College Transparency Act was reintroduced during the 118th Congress by U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-08) and Joe Wilson (R-SC-2) in the House and Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tim Scott (R-SC), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) in the Senate.

IECA supports the reintroduction of the College Transparency Act during the 119th Congress.