

POLITICO



POLITICO



POLITICO

## Morning Education

*A daily overview of education policy news*

✉ **re Morning Education Newsletter**

By signing up you agree to receive email newsletters or alerts from POLITICO. You can unsubscribe at any time.

# Trump administration kicks off next round of higher ed rulemaking

By **MICHAEL STRATFORD** | 09/06/2018 10:00 AM EDT

*With help from Caitlin Emma, Mel Leonor and Benjamin Wermund*

### **TRUMP ADMINISTRATION KICKS OFF NEXT ROUND OF HIGHER ED**

**RULEMAKING:** The Education Department today will formally begin its second round of rewriting federal regulations governing higher education. Department officials will hold a daylong hearing to accept public feedback on their plans to conduct rulemaking on revisions to federal rules on topics that include college accreditation, nontraditional education providers and religious schools.

— **This batch of rulemaking is largely aimed** at promoting “greater access for

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

**Accept**



courses provide “regular and substantive interaction” between students and the instructor; the rules governing direct assessment programs and competency-based education programs; changes to the TEACH Grant program; and the easing of restrictions on funding for religious colleges.

— **Speakers at the hearing have been asked to weigh in on those regulatory issues the Education Department already raised** — or they “may suggest additional topics that should be considered for action by the negotiating committee.”

— **Today’s hearing begins at 9 a.m. at the Education Department’s Washington, D.C., headquarters.** It’s the first of three scheduled public hearings that department officials are holding. The next ones will be Sept. 11 in New Orleans and Sept. 13 in Sturtevant, Wis.

#### **GOOD THURSDAY MORNING AND WELCOME TO MORNING EDUCATION.**

Drop me a line with your tips and feedback: [mstratford@politico.com](mailto:mstratford@politico.com) or [@mstratford](https://twitter.com/mstratford). Share event listings: [educalendar@politicopro.com](mailto:educalendar@politicopro.com). And follow us on Twitter: [@Morning\\_Edu](https://twitter.com/Morning_Edu) and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

#### **HOUSE PASSES EXPANSION OF STUDENT LOAN COUNSELING (AGAIN):**

The House on Wednesday passed bipartisan legislation that would expand financial counseling for recipients of federal student loans and grants. Lawmakers voted 406-4 to pass the legislation, H.R. 1635 (115).

— **It’s the third time the House has passed the measure in recent years**, having approved similar bills in 2014 and 2016 with bipartisan support. The legislation had been included as part of the sweeping GOP House bill to rewrite the Higher Education Act, H.R. 4508 (115). That overhaul was approved in committee on a party-line vote in December, but it’s struggled to attract enough GOP support to bring it to the House floor.

— **“We do need to do some work on the PROSPER Act,”** Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.), who co-sponsored the loan counseling legislation with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.), told Morning Education. Guthrie said the PROSPER Act called for “major reforms” to higher education. “A lot of universities have pushed back against the reforms,” he said, adding that “it’s going to take more education” of members and outside groups to bring the

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

**Accept**



accusing the Trump administration of violating a federal requirement that agencies publish accurate and reliable information.

— **The National Student Legal Defense Network on Wednesday submitted a petition to the Education Department** that formally requests a correction to DeVos' proposal to eliminate the rule, which cuts off federal aid to low-performing programs at for-profit schools and other career colleges.

— **The petition, made under the Information Quality Act, accuses the Trump administration of failing to properly back up the statements it made to justify its proposed elimination of the rule.** It notes, for instance, that a prominent education scholar last month said the Trump administration had “misrepresented” her research in its proposal.

— **The Information Quality Act, also known as the Data Quality Act, allows individuals to challenge the accuracy or objectivity of information published by a federal agency.** Education Department policy calls for the agency to respond to petitions under that law within 60 days.

— **The same strategy was used by for-profit colleges in 2011** when they challenged the Obama administration's proposal to write the gainful employment rule for the first time. The Education Department at the time rejected the industry's objections, and a department appeals panel upheld that decision. [Read more.](#)

**‘AN INSTITUTION WITH SERIOUS FLAWS’:** Nicole Hemmer, an assistant professor in presidential studies at the Miller Center, took to Twitter to explain why she answered POLITICO's questions about an episode known as “shoegate” at the prestigious University of Virginia think tank. The center, she said, is “an institution with serious flaws, but I do believe (hope?) it's fixable.” Still, she wrote that it's “also a place where I've experienced more harassment than anywhere else I've worked,” and then detailed two such instances.

— **We reported Tuesday that a member of the center's governing council resigned after a records request by POLITICO uncovered an email in which he belittled women** working there. Council member Fred W. Scott Jr. said women at the Miller Center “don't like to be put into groups” unless they involve “Lunch, coffee,

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

Accept



shoes as a thank you. Several Miller Center staffers were uncomfortable with the offer, which was jokingly framed by Scott as a military order. Ben Wermund has the full story.

— **The Miller Center has condemned Scott’s comments**, saying in a statement that it "strongly objects to the content and sentiments expressed in this email, including discriminatory and offensive language as well as any suggestions of potential retaliation against any Miller Center staff members."

— **But Hemmer wrote the incident nonetheless was painful to her and other women at the center.** And to refer to the scandal by the shorthand “shoegate” minimized it. “It allowed me to make it small and ironic, because to accept what it said about the place of women at the center hurt. Hurts.” She said she spoke about it “because I don’t think that hardness, numbness, and silence should be the price of being a woman doing work in the public sphere ... we don’t all need harder shells. That shouldn’t be the price of admission for women engaging the public. Or for women just going to work every day.” Read her whole thread.

#### **PUERTO RICO AIMS DISASTER AID AT HURRICANE-RELATED TRAUMA:**

Puerto Rico’s education agency is setting aside \$14 million in federal disaster aid to hire hundreds of nurses who will help public school students suffering from hurricane-related trauma.

— **Puerto Rico will mark the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Maria later this month, and education officials say hundreds of students continue to grapple with trauma left by its destruction.** A study conducted by Puerto Rico’s Education Department and the Medical University of South Carolina — which surveyed 428 schools — found that roughly 1 in 10 students display symptoms of trauma. They found similar rates among teachers.

— **“What we’re hoping is that, by addressing the socioemotional needs of our students, we can help our school population begin the process towards definitive recovery,”** said Puerto Rico Education Secretary Julia Keleher in a statement. She added the nurses will not only address post-traumatic stress, but also nutrition and general well being.

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

Accept



disaster or emergency. As we reported last month, states and territories that received RESTART funds in April have been slow to spend the aid.

**TENNESSEE REACHES AGREEMENT WITH FEDS OVER TESTING:** The Tennessee Department of Education and federal education officials have reached an agreement after major glitches hit standardized testing earlier this year, Chalkbeat reports. State lawmakers voted in April to give students, teachers and public schools a pass when it comes to those test results because of the technology failures — even though the state had pledged to use the data for holding schools accountable under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

— **Tennessee now plans to produce three separate lists of low-performing schools.** One list will exclude the most recent testing data and will serve as a basis for determining state interventions and supports. Two other lists will include the results and will help determine which schools receive additional federal funding. State education officials expect significant overlap between the two. Chalkbeat has more.

**ARIZONA VOTERS OUST STATE EDUCATION CHIEF:** Arizona voters have ousted state Superintendent Diane Douglas, who finished third in the GOP primary this week. Voters this fall will now choose between Republican Frank Riggs, a former congressman and charter school executive, or Democrat Kathy Hoffman, a first-time candidate, public school teacher and vocal supporter of the strikes in the state earlier this year for better pay and more education funding.

— **During her tenure, Douglas clashed with the state board of education** and even took the board to court to clarify her authority over its members. Douglas was also a proponent of dumping the Common Core, math and English standards that were voluntarily adopted by dozens of states.

**CORTEZ MASTO INTRODUCES BILL TO CURB ELL TEACHER SHORTAGE:** Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) this week introduced a bill that would create incentives for colleges and universities to operate teacher prep programs tailored to serve English-language learners. The Reaching English Language Learners Act would create grants for higher education institutions under Title II of the Higher Education Act. Those grants would be used to produce teachers qualified to identify ELLs, help these students

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

Accept



bipartisan support.

## REPORT ROLL CALL

- The Education Commission of the States is out with a new report on how state policymakers can help with the transition from preschool to kindergarten.
- The New York Fed explores higher education’s role in “earnings, employment and economic mobility” in a new blog post.
- Education Trust is out with a new report: “A Promise Fulfilled: A Framework For Equitable Free College Programs.” Read it here.

## SYLLABUS

- Arizona lawmakers cut education budgets. Then teachers got angry: The New York Times Magazine.
- Detroit students face heat wave, elevated metals in drinking water: NPR.
- Officials expose D.C. students’ personal information online: The Associated Press.

**Follow the Pro Education team:** @caitlinzemma (cemma@politico.com), @khefling (khefling@politico.com), @mstratford (mstratford@politico.com), @BenjaminEW (bwermond@politico.com), @MelLeonor\_ (mleonor@politico.com) and @JaneNorman (jnorman@politico.com).

[About Us](#)

[Advertising](#)

[Breaking News Alerts](#)

[Careers](#)

[Credit Card Payments](#)

[Digital Edition](#)

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

**Accept**



[Photos](#)

[POWERJobs](#)

[Press](#)

[Print Subscriptions](#)

[RSS](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

---

© 2018 POLITICO LLC

To give you the best possible experience, this site uses cookies. If you continue browsing, you accept our use of cookies. You can review our privacy policy to find out more about the cookies we use.

**Accept**

