



# SHEEO

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

## Massachusetts DHE Trustees Meeting

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October 27, 2021



## Overview

- Appropriations and Debt Ceiling
- Update on Reconciliation Bill/Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill
- Negotiated Rulemaking
- DACA/Other Issues

## Appropriations and Debt Ceiling

- President Biden signed continuing resolution on Sept. 30, just hours before deadline. Government funded until December 3
- Eleven GOP senators joined Democrats to temporarily raise debt ceiling, avoiding economic catastrophe. Debt ceiling needs to be raised again in December
- Minority Leader: Dems on their own for raising debt ceiling in December



## Reconciliation Bill

- Negotiations are ongoing
- The original \$3.5 trillion House bill is likely to be reduced to \$1.6-\$1.75 trillion
- Free community college gone (Manchin, Sinema opposed)
- Potential cost-cutting strategies: reducing the number of years, means-testing programs, removing programs,
- Pelosi and moderates wants fewer programs over longer period, Manchin wants means testing, progressives want to keep more programs with shorter time window w/o means testing



## Key Higher Education Priorities in the Reconciliation Package Left in House Bill

- ~~Free community college~~
- \$9 Billion Retention and Completion Grants
- \$500 Pell Grant Increase
- Funding for HBCUs and MSIs
- Investments in Teacher Preparation





## Highlights of Retention and Completion Grants

- \$9 billion competitive grant program to states and TCUs to carry out evidence-based reforms and practices.
- 3% of funds are reserved for TCUs, the remaining for competitive grants to states.
- Grants are for no more than 7 years.
- States are only eligible to apply if they are participating in the ACP free community college federal-state partnership.
- Eligible states must submit an application and evaluate.
- State may use:
  - Up to 3% of grant amount for administration of grant.
  - Up to 3% of grant for evaluating effectiveness of activities.

## Reforms and Practices

- Comprehensive academic, career, and student support services.
- Assistance in applying for and accessing direct student support services, means-tested programs.
- Emergency financial aid.
- Accelerated learning (e.g., dual enrollment, early college high school, reforming course scheduling and credit awarding).
- Developmental/remedial education reform.
- Career pathways.
- Improving transfer.

## Pell Grants

- Increase the maximum Pell grant by an additional \$500 in each year through award year 2029-30.
  - The President's budget envisioned an \$1800 increase in the maximum grant in FY 2022, with \$400 coming through appropriations and \$1400 coming through a reconciliation bill or other source.
  - The House-passed FY 2022 appropriations bill raises the maximum Pell grant by \$400, which in combination with this bill would result in a \$900 increase for FY 2022 (pages 93-94); and
- Coalitions of higher education associations, including AASCU, APLU, AACCC, and ACE disappointed by low Pell number



## Key Points for Teacher Preparation

- **\$197 million** for **Grow Your Own** programs
- **\$198 million** for **teacher residency** programs
- **\$198 million** for **school leadership programs**
- **\$198 million** for The Augustus F Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program
- **\$297 million** for personnel development for **Individuals with Disabilities**.

## Key Points for HBCUs/MSIs

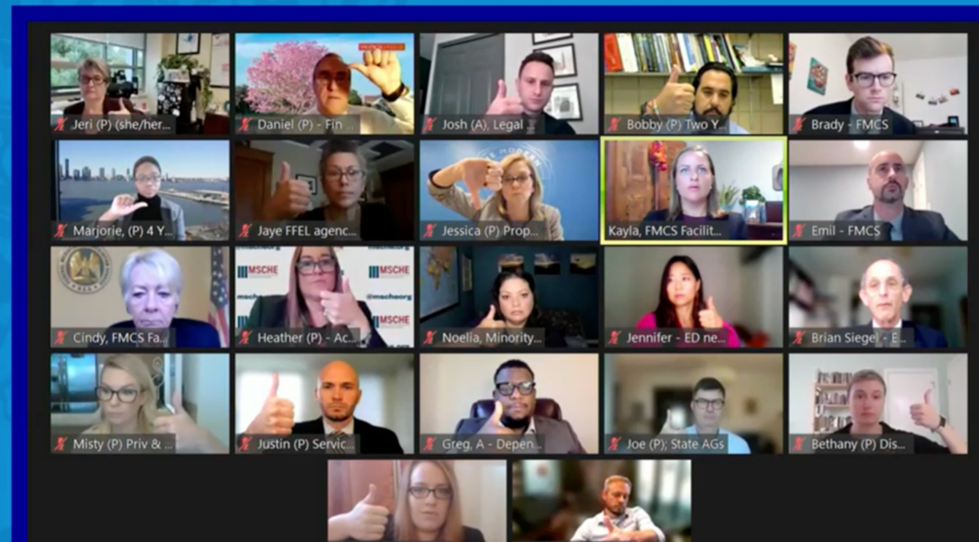
- Institutional Aid to HBCUs/MSIs: \$1.5 billion in direct aid to HBCUs and MSIs through 2026
- Research and Development Infrastructure at HBCUs/MSIs: \$2 billion for a competitive grant program for research and development infrastructure through 2028
- Tuition Assistance at HBCUs/other MSIs: 7 years of tuition assistance at 4-year HBCUs/other MSIs via institutional grants, median community college tuition times the number of students to buy down tuition for the first two year of college. Institutions needs to hold the line on their tuition increases in the first year of the program.

# Negotiated Rulemaking

- Total and Permanent Disability
- Closed School Discharge
- Eliminate Interest Capitalization
- Improving Public Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Application Process
- PSLF Eligibility
- Borrower Defense (BD) Adjudication Process
- BD Post Adjudication
- BD Recovery From Institutions
- Predispute Arbitration
- Income Driven Repayment (IDR) Plan
- False Certification Discharge



## and Student Loans Committee



## Other Issues

- No word on Biden loan forgiveness memo
- Administration to “fortify and protect” DACA after ruling from Texas-based federal judge
- House Oversight Committee Transcript Withholding Information
- International Student Support
- Vaccine mandates
- Biden OCR Pick Confirmed
- PSLF Changes



Questions?

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