# McAllister & Quinn

# **Higher Education Policy Under Trump 2.0: Key Impacts & Strategic Recommendations**

Information current as of Sepember 15, 2025

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Trump administration is restructuring the **Department of Education to reduce its footprint** and shift federal education policy toward workforce development, ideological oversight, and state-led governance. This agenda is being advanced through executive actions, legislation, and coordinated efforts across multiple federal agencies.



# TOP LINE IMPACTS

# **NEXT STEPS**





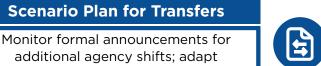
### **Dept of ED Downsizing**

40% staff cut; core functions shifting to Labor & Treasury, additional transfers likely (HHS, DOJ)

#### **Scenario Plan for Transfers**

additional agency shifts; adapt

compliance & reporting structures



## **Diversify & Realign Research**



90% staff reductions (IES): R&D focus areas narrowed

**Research Cuts & Realignment** 

## Seek state & foundation funding; pivot to AI, literacy, workforce, choice models.



### **Grant Oversight & Scrutiny**

Political appointees approve grants; \$1B in awards delayed/cancelled

#### Strengthen Grant Compliance



Bolster internal offices; Contingency plans for delayed/rescinded awards



#### **Workforce Pell Grants**

Short-term programs aligned to workforce needs. Limits on traditional Pell and PLUS loans.

## Advocacy & Plan for Aid Shifts



Attend RISE & AHEAD hearings to shape regulatory action; Model impacts from Pell & loan changes.



## **Civil Rights Enforcement**

\$6B university funds frozen; admin directed investigations (DEI/antisemitism)

### **Audit Civil Rights Policies**



Review Title IX, antisemitism practices; consult legal counsel to assess risk



### **New Reporting Requirements**

IPEDS ACTS requires six years of admissions/aid data, by race & sex.

### **Plan for ACTS Reporting**



Early coordination with admission, aid, & institutional research offices



#### **DEI Rollback**

DEI mandates banned for federal grantees; compliance built into awards; "discriminatory" programs canceled



Anticipate blanket freezes becoming routine; monitor court decisions & regulatory efforts (Unified Agenda)

Track Enforcement & Litigation

