



October 8, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

On July 17, Governor Josh Shapiro signed into law Act 69 of 2024, which requires Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to present financial information in greater detail to students and to provide financial aid exit counseling at the end of a student's final academic term. To help you understand these new requirements, the department has outlined the changes below.

We appreciate your assistance in implementing the new law and helping your students better understand the financial costs to attend your institution, their repayment obligations as they near graduation and the available resources to assist them.

Effective the 2024-25 school year, all IHEs are responsible for the following measures to ensure higher education transparency and accountability. For your convenience, we have included citations to the [Public School Code](#).

Student Fee Transparency ([Section 2004-H](#))

Effective immediately, IHEs must post online every mandatory fee in advance of the start of the academic term for which the fee will be charged and included on a tuition bill. The posting must include the purpose of the fee and a description of how it will be used.

Other requirements include:

- By November 15, 2025, IHEs must post online from the prior academic year the total amount of mandatory fees collected with a detailed description/use of each.
- Beginning June 30, 2026, IHEs must provide PDE with the website where these items are found. Reporting will be required in the Higher Education Reporting system in January 2027.

Higher Education Cost Transparency ([Section 2005-H](#))

Effective immediately, IHEs must provide prospective students with extensive cost and financial aid information as part of the admission or financial aid offer process. This information includes:

- Tuition for the first year, a list of fees (mandatory and optional), a breakdown of room and meal options, books and supplies costs.
- Estimated financial aid including scholarships, grants, and loans and whether each needs to be repaid.
- Student employment options.
- A net cost of attendance (costs minus scholarships and grants) and an estimate of the total cost of attendance for subsequent years.
- Information on whether or not financial aid is renewable for each year, and the requirements in subsequent years to renew.
- A history of the previous academic year's tuition and future tuition/fee estimates for each year for the student to complete their major.

An attestation of compliance for this requirement will appear in your Higher Education Reporting in January 2025.



Exit Counseling ([Section 2006-H](#))

Effective immediately, IHEs must provide financial aid exit counseling to students at the end of their final academic term, unless a student elects not to participate. Federal Student Aid (FSA) Federal Loan Exit Counseling does not supplant this requirement. Counseling may be in-person or online, and IHEs may partner with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency or a similar entity.

Exit Counseling must include:

- A list of all available federal and state programs including, if available, related websites and contact information that may assist with payments, reductions, or forgiveness of student loans.
- All available repayment options on student loans known to the IHE and, if available, a link to an online student loan repayment calculator.
- When student's loan repayment begins and information on delaying repayment.
- If a student withdraws, they must receive the same information. If counselling cannot occur, the packet of information must be mailed to the student at their last known address.

An attestation of compliance for this requirement will appear in your Higher Education Reporting in January 2025.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring students have the detailed information and resources they need to successfully pursue a college or university degree. Please email our office at ra-highereducation@pa.gov with any questions regarding the content of this letter.

Sincerely,

Kate Shaw, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary and Commissioner