



# Navigating the Changing Policy Landscape

New President's Intensive, June 23, 2025



# Moving From Uncertainty to Strategy

How EAB is Helping Partners Navigate the Changing Federal Policy Landscape

1

**Reduce Time  
Spent Reading  
Executive Orders**

Use available  
resources to  
minimize  
processing time

EAB's Federal  
Policy Primers

2

**Gain Visibility  
Into Peer  
Responses**

Use EAB surveys  
and pop-up events  
to discuss  
institutional actions  
and the most  
creative strategies

Peer Position  
Pulse Checks

3

**Navigate Critical  
Issues With  
Uncertain Futures**

Define critical  
uncertainties,  
clarify key risks,  
and make a plan for  
"no regrets" moves

Resilient Future  
Planning Exercises

4

**Double Down  
on Persistent  
Priorities**

Clarify the issues  
and priorities that  
will only become  
more important in  
the current  
environment

Strategic  
Advisory Services

# Much Has Been Done, and Much Has Been Undone



3

## Procedural Abnormalities Leave Policies in Limbo With the Courts

### Executive Action By The Numbers

**150+**

Executive Orders

**270+**

Lawsuits filed

**180+**

Legal decisions  
pausing actions

**~10**

Closed cases

### Executive Actions Affecting Higher Ed Currently Blocked by the Courts

#### Civil Rights

- Dear Colleague Letter and FAQ
- 60+ Title VI Investigations targeting “illegal DEI”



#### Immigration

- 4700 SEVP Record Deletions
- SEVP Certification Cancellation for Harvard University



#### Research Funding

- 15% F&A Rate Cap (NIH, NSF, DoE, DoD)
- 2400 NIH grants cancelled for “flagged terms”\*
- 40 Reductions in Force across 17+ agencies



\*Approximately 800 grants restored for the plaintiffs involved in the case

# Immigration Will Remain Predictably Unpredictable

## Executive Branch Benefits From Broad Discretion and Past Precedent

### Who Controls Immigration?

	Congress	Executive Branch
Visa Terms and Conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Application screening		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Appointment availability		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Visa approval or denial		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Visa revocation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Frequently Asked Questions

And Current Best Answers

*Will the travel bans be blocked by courts?*

- Probably not, as based on past precedent.

*Will Chinese student visas be revoked?*

- Expect continued uncertainty

*How much international melt will we see?*

- Impossible to know until fall

*Will selective schools compensate with late offers to domestic students?*

- Unlikely, based on responses from AAU schools

# States Grab the Baton on Institutional Control



## Themes in Recent Republican Legislation Echo Trump Administration Agenda

Recent Legislative Action	Florida	Texas	Ohio	Indiana
Banning DEI programs and initiatives	✓	✓	✓	✓
Establishing alternative accreditors	✓	✓		
Changing the governing boards of public institutions		✓	✓	✓
Limiting the influence of faculty senates		✓		✓
Implementing post-tenure review requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓
Limiting faculty speech on divisive issues	✓	✓	✓	✓
Requiring course syllabi to be posted online	✓	✓	✓	✓
Placing viability thresholds on the number of graduates from programs		✓		✓
Require commitment to intellectual diversity	✓	✓	✓	✓

# “OBBBA” Proposals Indicate Pending Overhaul of Aid

Senate Dampened Most Onerous House Proposals, But Change is Coming

Line Item	House Bill	Senate Bill	
Grad PLUS Loans	Eliminated	Eliminated	■
Parent PLUS Loans	\$50k per parent, total	\$65k per student, total	■
Subsidized Loans	Eliminated	Sustained	■
Loan Caps	\$50k UG, \$100k G, \$150k P	Current UG, \$100k G, \$200k P	■
Loan Repayment	Two options: One standard, one IDR	Two options: One standard, one IDR	■
Pell Grants	15 credit Max Pell, no less than 7.5	Excludes full-scholarship students	■
Workforce Pell	Included	Included	■
Earnings Accountability	“CCRA” risk Sharing	Median earnings thresholds for aid	■
Endowment Excise Tax	$\$500\text{-}750\text{k} = 1.4\%$ $\$750\text{k} - \$1.2 = 7\%$ $\$1.2 - \$2\text{m} = 14\%$ $\$2\text{m}+ = 21\%$	$\$500 - 750\text{k} = 1.4\%$ $\$750\text{k} - \$2\text{m} = 4\%$ $\$2\text{m}+ = 8\%$	■

# FY26 Budget Hardwires Cuts to Equity Programs



Programs Deemed Most at Risk in the Continuing Resolution “Zeroed Out”

Program	Proposed Cut	Current Funding (2024)	New Amount
Pell Grant (Maximum)	\$1685 per student	\$7395 per student	\$5710 per student
Federal Work Study	\$980 million	\$1.23 billion	\$250 million
Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	\$910 million	\$910 million	\$0
TRIO and GEAR UP	\$1.579 billion	\$1.579 billion	\$0
Teacher Quality Partnerships	\$70 million	\$70 million	\$0
Strengthening Institutions	\$112 million	\$112 million	\$0
Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Ed	\$195 million	\$171 million	-\$24 million
Child Care on Campus	\$75 million	\$75 million	\$0

# Staying Focused on the Most Important Issue

As the Real Cost of College Rises, Proving ROI Will Remain Central to Success

## Lots of Differing Interests...

### Employers

- New technology
- Productivity
- Innovation

### Students

- Extracurriculars
- Residence halls
- Majors

### Donors

- Reputation
- Social issues

### Parents

- Campus safety
- Affordability
- Well-being

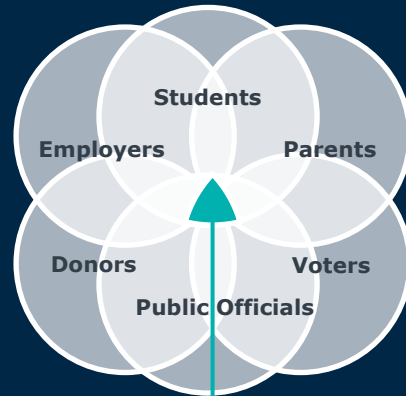
### Public Officials

- Voter support
- Regulations & compliance

### Voters

- Taxpayer dollars
- Community benefits

## ...But More Overlap in Key Priorities Than Expected



Social & economic mobility



Workforce & economic development



Solutions to real-world problems



Provable return on investment & impact



# Non-Negotiable Actions for Summer 2025

## *Where to Start With EAB*



**Stay Focused on  
Relevance, Value  
Proposition and ROI**

- Differentiating the Student Value Proposition
- Communicating Your Value Proposition to Price-Sensitive Families



**Define (and communicate)  
how your school supports  
student success**

- The Student Success Playbook
- Building Experiential Major Maps



**Sustain the International  
Exchange While  
Minimizing Revenue Risk**

- 100 Tactics for International Student Support
- Recruiting and Attracting Online International Students



**Communicate With Legislators  
About Costs of Cuts to  
Students and the Region**

- Communicating the Value of Institutional Research



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