

Honorable Secretary Miguel Cardona
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC 20202

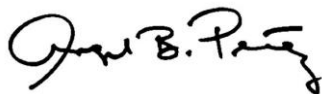
Dear Secretary Cardona,

On behalf of our more than 27,000 members who support students through college transitions, we write to urge you to remind recipients of Department of Education (ED) grants including local education agencies (LEAs), state education agencies (SEAs), and schools, of allowable uses that can support additional help for secondary students, school counselors, and college access advisors to deal with potential challenges in the FAFSA delays.

Recently, we have heard from school counselors and advisors across the country who have expressed concern that as a result of the challenging implementation of the new FAFSA and the subsequent delays in enrollment and financial aid deadlines, students' needs will exceed employment contract windows of many who work public schools. The [FAFSA College Support Strategy](#) and [Concierge Service](#) that ED announced this month will rightly provide additional support to our higher education members as they navigate the compressed timeline to get award packages to students, but students aiming to continue their education also need additional support from a trusted resource to compare award packages, complete any follow up required by institutions, and other activities associated with their enrollment. This support typically comes from their counselors and advisors. Given the substantial shift in financial aid and admission processes this year, many schools will need to be equipped to provide service to students even after the school year has ended.

Fortunately, ED is well practiced in sending these types of communications to the field, and we are confident that reminding grant recipients of allowable uses that facilitate counselors and college advisors to continue working with students even after their contract window closes will help ensure more students matriculate to the postsecondary option that fits them best. Please reach out to CJ Powell, Director of Advocacy, at cpowell@nacacnet.org or 703-299-6825 if you have any additional questions.

Yours in education,



Angel Pérez, Ph.D
CEO, National Association for College Admission Counseling