

September 11, 2017

Kate Mullan
Acting Director of the Information Collection Clearance Division
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington DC 20202

Dear Ms. Mullan:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the 27 undersigned members and partners of the Postsecondary Data Collaborative (PostsecData), in response to the Department of Education's (ED) comment request notice regarding the 2017–18 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study Administrative Collection (NPSAS:18-AC). PostsecData is comprised of organizations committed to the use of high-quality postsecondary data to improve student success and advance educational equity, and the organizations below represent diverse constituents including students, institutions, and states.

We are writing to express our support for the National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES') proposed revision to add NPSAS:18-AC to the existing NPSAS study cycle. The nationally representative sample of undergraduate and graduate students across all 50 states will support state and federal policymaker and researcher efforts in answering critical questions related to college affordability and students' financing of postsecondary education. Making NPSAS data available on a biannual basis will enhance the field's ability to conduct timely analyses. Further, we applaud NCES efforts to release a NPSAS data-set with a larger sample size capable of supporting both national and state-level analyses, providing state representative samples for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for the first time. The ability to explore state-level estimates of college costs and student aid will be a true value-add, enhancing states' ability to craft and implement data-driven policies.

Postsecondary data that empower policymakers to make evidence-backed decisions and researchers to produce timely analyses are vital to addressing issues of college affordability and improving student outcomes. We value the Department's dedication to strengthening the postsecondary data infrastructure, and are grateful for its recognition of the need for high-quality data.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revision. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email Mamie Voight, vice president of policy research at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) at (202) 587-4967 or mvoight@ihep.org.

Sincerely,

Achieving the Dream	Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce	National College Access Network
Advance CTE	Higher Learning Advocates	New America Education Policy Program
American Association of Community Colleges	Institute for Higher Education Policy	Postsecondary Analytics
American Association of State Colleges and Universities	Jobs for the Future	Public Insight Corporation
Association of Public & Land-grant Universities	Knowledge Alliance	The Bell Policy Center
California EDGE Coalition	Lehman College of The City University of New York	The Institute for College Access & Success
Campaign for College Opportunity	NASPA - Student Affairs	Veterans Education Success
Center for Law and Social Policy	Administrators in Higher Education	Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
Complete College America	National Association for College Admission Counseling	Young Invincibles
	National Center for Higher Education Management Systems	