

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

The agreement includes \$24,500,000 for FIPSE, to remain available through December 31, 2020, for the following activities.

Career Pathways.—The agreement includes \$10,000,000 for grants to expand and improve career pathways opportunities for students beginning in high school. These grants should support the creation of sustainable, evidence-based career exploration and guidance systems that promote multiple pathways to postsecondary and career success.

Centers of Excellence for Veterans Student Success Program.—The agreement includes \$7,000,000 for the activity described under the heading “*Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education*” and as set out in the paragraphs associated with the Centers of Excellence for Veterans Student Success Program in House Report 116-62.

Open Textbook Pilot.—The agreement includes \$7,000,000 to continue the Open Textbook Pilot and fund a new grant competition in fiscal year 2020. The Department shall issue a notice inviting applications consistent with notice and comment procedures and allow for a 60-day application period. This funding should support a significant number of grant awards to IHEs as defined by 20 U.S.C. 1001, a group of IHEs, or State higher education agencies that lead the activities of (and serve as fiscal agent for) a consortium. Funding should be used to create new open textbooks and expand the use of open textbooks in courses that are part of a degree granting program, and particularly those with high enrollments. Allowable uses of funds should include professional development for faculty and staff, including relating to the search for and review of open textbooks; the creation or adaptation of open textbooks; development or improvement of tools and informational resources that support the use of open textbooks, including

accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities; and research evaluating the efficacy of the use of open textbooks for achieving savings for students and the impact on instruction and student learning outcomes. The Secretary shall require that any open textbooks created with these funds shall be released to the public under a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable license to exercise any of the rights under copyright conditioned only on the requirement that attribution be given as directed by the copyright owner. Further, any tools, technologies, or other resources that are created, developed, or improved wholly or in part with these funds for use with any open textbook must be similarly licensed. Any eligible entity receiving a grant through the Open Textbooks Pilot, upon completion of the supported project, shall report to the Secretary regarding the effectiveness of the project in expanding the use of open textbooks and in achieving savings for students; the impact of the project on expanding the use of open textbooks at IHEs outside of the institution receiving the grant; open textbooks created or adapted under the grant, including instructions on where the public can access each open textbook; the impact of the project on instruction and student learning outcomes; and all project costs, including the value of any volunteer labor and institutional capital used for the project. The Secretary shall make such reports publicly available.

National Center for Information and Technical Support for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities.—The agreement includes \$500,000 for the operation of the National Center for Information and Technical Support for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities authorized under section 777(a) of the HEA.