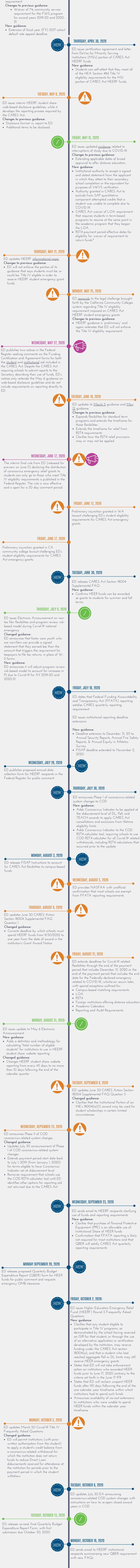
CARES Act **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)** Timeline



	 FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 The Department of Education (ED) issues first COVID-19 related guidance, covering interruptions of study due to COVID-19. New guidance: Broad approval to offer distance education. Institutional authority to continue paying Federal Work-Study (FWS) to students who are unable to work. Leave of Absence (LOA), Professional Judgment (PJ), Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), & Return of Title IV funds (R2T4).
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020	NEW
President Donald Trump issues a <u>proclamation</u> declaring a national emergency.	
	FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020
	ED adds FAQ document to March 5 guidance.
	 Changes to previous <u>guidance</u>: Extending applicable dates of March 5 guidance. New guidance: Treatment of institutional charge refunds. Clock-hour programs. Administration of Title IV aid for shortened academic years.
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020	NEWS
Trump signs the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (<u>CARES</u>) Act into law. The CARES Act includes \$14 billion in funding for higher education through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).	
	 FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 ED issues updated <u>guidance</u> related to interruptions of study due to COVID-19. Changes to previous guidance: Extending applicable dates of March 5 guidance. Paying FWS to students who are unable to work.* Mew guidance: Waiver of in-person/notary requirements for V4/V5 verification identification documentation.
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2020	
 ED issues <u>certification agreement</u> and <u>letter</u> from Secretary of Education for student portion of CARES Act HEERF funds. Schools are told they can submit their agreements immediately and that the first funds would be pushed out within the week. DeVos urges schools to "promptly make available emergency financial aid grants from the advanced funds directly to students" New guidance: ED states, with respect to student eligibility, "The CARES Act provides institutions with significant discretion on how to award this emergency assistance to students The only statutory requirement is that the funds be used to cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus." Reporting: Schools must submit a report to ED on HEERF student emergency grant spending within 30 days from the date they signed the agreement. 	
	TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020
	ED issues <u>certification agreement</u> , <u>press</u> release, and <u>FAQ</u> for institutional portion of CARES Act HEERF funds, and a <u>student-</u> <u>fund FAQ document</u> . Changes to previous guidance: • Students must meet Title IV eligibility requirements in order to receive CARES Act funds.*
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020:	

ED issues guidance on cohort default rate appeals, and the FWS community service



*Indicates that changed guidance introduced the possibility that institutions would be retroactively out of compliance, or required institutions to undo previously-completed work.



The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) is a nonprofit membership organization that represents more than 28,000 financial aid professionals at nearly 3,000 colleges, universities, and career schools across the country. NASFAA member institutions serve nine out of every 10 undergraduates in the United States. Based in Washington, D.C., NASFAA is the only national association with a primary focus on student aid legislation, regulatory analysis, and training for financial aid administrators. For more information, visit <u>www.nasfaa.org</u>.

Updated as of October 28, 2020