

## **ED TRUST HIGHER EDUCATION ACT (HEA) PRIORITIES**

## Improve college affordability for low-income students, students of color, and other underserved populations

- Strengthen the Pell Grant program by restoring annual inflation adjustments, increasing the maximum award, and shifting to mandatory funding
- Provide high-quality postsecondary education programs to individuals who are incarcerated and/ or impacted by the criminal justice system
- Expand opportunities for Dreamers to pursue a higher education

## Align federal investments with campus performance on equitable access and success

- Maintain and strengthen accountability provisions currently in place, including the 90/10 rule
  and gainful employment regulation which aim to cap federal funding of for-profit colleges
  and hold career training programs accountable for providing labor market return on investments
  among graduates
- In addition to maintaining and strengthening the accountability provisions currently in place, create pressure and provide support for the entire higher education system to improve for historically underserved students (i.e., low-income students and students of color) by doing the following:
  - Establish minimum standards for institutions on enrolling historically underserved students (i.e. low-income students and students of color);
  - Establish minimum standards for institutions on student performance, experiences, and outcomes using measures such as retention, transfer, graduation and job placement, especially for historically underserved students (i.e. low-income students and students of color);
  - Provide rewards for institutions making continual growth toward reaching ambitious access and success goals within a reasonable timeline;
  - Sustain and increase investments in historically under-resourced institutions to support the implementation of evidence-based strategies that improve completion especially for historically underserved students; and
  - Enforce meaningful consequences for underperforming institutions that, after getting needed resources, time, and support, fail to meet minimum enrollment and performance standards.
- Improve higher education data systems to provide reliable, consistent and usable information needed to construct effective accountability and oversight systems by doing the following:
  - Overturn the ban on creating a student unit record system;
  - Create a student level data network that disaggregates data by race and income;
  - Ensure privacy and security for sensitive student information such as citizenship status, discipline records, and criminal history; and
  - Improve IPEDS and NSLDS so that data on critical measures of student success are disaggregated by race and income.

## Invest in the development and scaling of evidence-based practices for improving student success

- Fund efforts to help campuses identify, implement, scale up, and evaluate programs
  that improve outcomes for the students who are most at risk of dropping out,
  including low-income students and students of color
- Target these funds to the institutions that serve high proportions of historically underserved students

Ensure that institutions of higher education protect the safety and civil rights of all students