

How the DeVos Deregulation Agenda is Destroying the Structural Integrity of Higher Education

We all know the most important features of a durable shelter are the ones we cannot see. And in higher education, there are lesser known but key regulations designed to protect students and taxpayers from wasting their time and money on bad programs. Recent actions by the DeVos-led Department of Education are doing serious damage to the structural integrity of our higher education system. We must strengthen, not weaken, these existing regulations to ensure students get value for the degrees and credentials they seek.

Substantive Interaction:

This rule requires online instructors to spend time helping their students learn. Reducing this student-instructor interaction will leave students struggling to complete their coursework, dimming the lightbulbs that help keep their minds bright.

State Authorization:

This rule ensures that students who complete postsecondary programs can seek the licensure they need to start their careers in the state where they attended school. The foundation of any degree is that it signals readiness to enter the job market. Weakening this oversight puts a huge crack in the foundation of students' abilities to find future economic success.



Accreditation:

Accreditation is a quality assurance mechanism to make sure institutions provide students with a quality education. Weakening requirements for college accreditors will leave even bigger holes in the roof protecting students from attending programs that provide little to no value.

Credit Hour:

This rule ensures the college classes students take are enough to justify a degree. Gutting the credit hour rule will allow institutions to provide less instruction while charging more for each course, clogging up the higher ed pipeline and creating fewer students with meaningful degrees.