



HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES & EMPOWERMENT (HERE) Act of 2019

H I S P A N I C A S S O C I A T I O N O F C O L L E G E S A N D U N I V E R S I T I E S



Questions and Answers

HEA Title V - Part D: the Hispanic Educational Resources and Empowerment Act of 2019 (HERE Act)

Why is HEA Title V - Part D, the HERE Act needed?

The HEA's Title V-Part D, the HERE Act is designed to support partnerships and collaboration between Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and school districts that educate the majority of Hispanic students in order to facilitate the transition between secondary and post-secondary education and improve overall student achievement. Historically, PK-12 and higher education have been separate systems, with different principles of organization, sources of funding, governing bodies and laws. Students and their families have had the major responsibility of making the transition on their own from one system to the other. Congressional support will enhance collaboration between these levels and assure a more seamless educational pipeline.

What is a Hispanic-Serving School District or an emerging Hispanic-Serving School District?

Hispanic-Serving School Districts (HSSD) are not currently defined in federal law. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) HEA Title V- Part D proposal addresses this limitation in the law by proposing the following definition: the term Hispanic- Serving School District means a local educational agency in which not less than 25 percent of the students served by the agency are Hispanic students, as determined by the 12th day of class enrollment figure, and in which not less than 50 percent of the students served by the agency are eligible to participate in the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq).

In the 2015-16 school year, there were 3,343 school districts with 25% or more Hispanic enrollment, and they enrolled 78 percent of all kindergarten through grade 12 Hispanic students in the United States or 10.3 million individuals. Represented among these districts are 9 of the Nation's 10 largest school districts.

Emerging Hispanic-Serving School Districts (eHSSD) are not currently defined in federal law. HACU's HEA Title V-Part D proposal addresses this limitation in the law by proposing the following definition: the term Emerging Hispanic-Serving School District means a local educational agency in which at least 15.0 percent but less than 25.0 percent of the students served by the local educational agency are Hispanic, as determined by the 12th day of class enrollment figure, and in which not less than 50 percent of the students served by the agency are eligible to participate in the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751seq.).

What is a Hispanic-Serving Institution or an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution?

Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) are defined in federal law (the Higher Education Opportunity Act, Title V, 2008) as accredited, degree-granting, public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education with 25% or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment, has an enrollment of needy students and has average educational and general expenditures of which are low, per FTE undergraduate student.

Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions (eHSIs) are not currently defined in federal law. The HERE Act, Title V-Part D, addresses this limitation in the law by proposing the following definition: "is an eligible institution of higher education, legally authorized as a nonprofit entity to provide, and provides within the State, an educational program for which the institution awards not less than a bachelor's degree; or a junior or community college, that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary to be reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or that is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation, that has an enrollment of undergraduate fulltime equivalent students that is at least 15.0 percent but less than 25.0 percent Hispanic at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of the application, that provides an educational program of not less than 2 years in duration that is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree.



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Who will benefit from Title V-Part D, the HERE Act?

For too many low-income, first generation students, including Hispanics, the preparedness provided by their early education experience is inadequate for success in a post-secondary environment. These students will benefit from the partnerships between K-12 and higher education that would be created under Title V, Part D for the purpose of improving students' educational attainment.

Why the focus only on Hispanics?

It is clear that the changing demographics in elementary and secondary schools in the U.S., in addition to fueling the rapid growth of HSIs, also present us with new opportunities to address lingering achievement gaps between White and Hispanic students. For example, while we are pleased about the considerable progress in recent decades in high school completion and college matriculation rates, it remains a concern that Hispanics still lag non-Hispanic whites in education attainment. Too many Hispanic students still have little or no exposure to higher education opportunities during their early school years. Congress needs to begin to take action to support enhanced collaboration between these levels and assure a more seamless educational pipeline.

What activities will HEA Title V - Part D support?

It is HACU's intent that the newly proposed HEA Title V-Part D would:

- Create a new HSI-designated grant program
- Define in law Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions (eHSIs), Hispanic-Serving School Districts (HSSDs), and Emerging Hispanic-Serving School Districts (eHSSDs)
- Promote and support PK-12 and higher education collaboration between HSIs and Hispanic-Serving School Districts (HSSDs)
- Expand and enhance the course offerings, program quality, and overall functionality of the colleges, universities and school districts that educate the majority of Hispanics
- Authorize the U.S. Secretary of Education to provide grants and assistance to HSIs for the development of model and innovative partnerships between higher education and secondary schools

Why do we need to define HSSDs?

We need to define HSSDs because they are currently not defined in federal law.

What happens in states/areas that have an HSSD, but no corresponding HSIs or emerging-HSIs?

We anticipate those situations to emerge. In such instances, the HSSD will be able to partner with a non-HSI.

How can I stay updated on this bill?

For the latest developments on this bill, visit <https://hacuadvocates.net/HEREAct>