



ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION THE ERA OF COVID-19

Challenges and Flexibilities

May 13, 2020

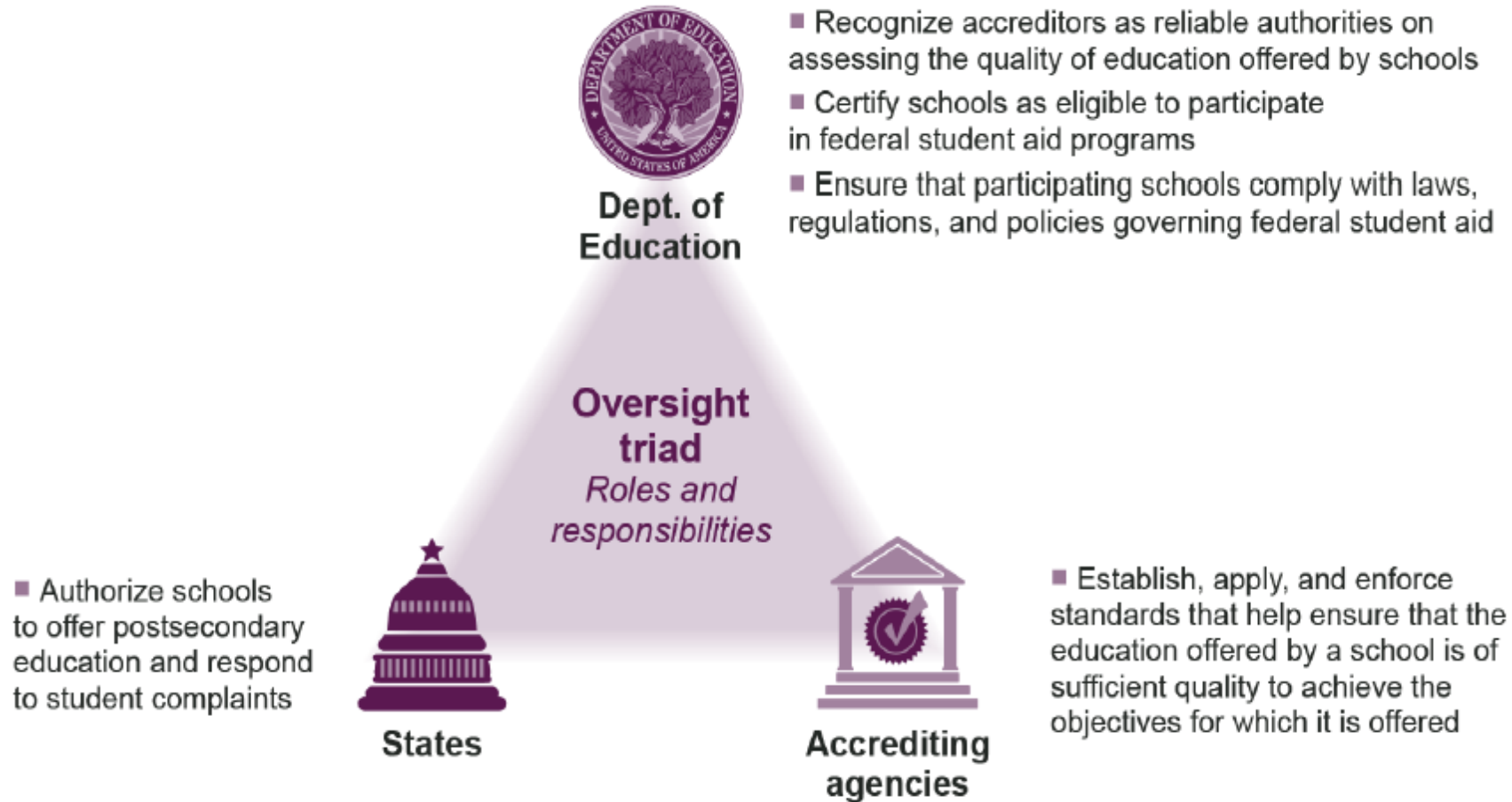
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Oversight Triad



Source: GAO analysis of relevant federal laws and regulations. | GAO-18-5

HETS- Accreditation in the Era of COVID 19

- MSCHE is committed to supporting institutions during this challenging time and has been moving quickly to make needed policy or procedural changes that align with the guidelines from the United States Department of Education (USDE)
- MSCHE Response to COVID-19 (coronavirus) website for updates (msche.org/covid-19)
- MSCHE remains focused on the safety, health, and well-being of our member institutions and all who contribute to peer review.

HETS Accreditation in the Era of COVID-19

- Temporary Waiver to the Substantive Change for Distance Education
- Virtual Visits for Follow Up and Self Study-On Site Visits/Delayed Visits if requested and agreed with the Team Chair
- The Commission remains attentive and following the USDE, to extend the flexibility to offer distance education beyond June 1, 2020, but has not yet received such guidance.
- Communication was distributed on May 4, 2020, to institutions that do not hold the alternative delivery method of distance education within the scope of their institution's accreditation .

This communication established temporary procedural modifications to expedite review under the Substantive Change Policy and Procedures and Substantive Change Guidelines for those institutions affected by the limitations of the current flexibility and needing to obtain more permanent approval to include the distance education alternative delivery method within the institution's scope of accreditation.

The expedited review process will be available only if the USDE extension is not forthcoming.

HETS – Accreditation in the COVID19 Era

- Fall Reports: Adjustment of future reporting deadlines.
- Reports due May 1, 2020, could have been rescheduled for October 1, 2020.
- Reports due September 1 or October 1, 2020, were rescheduled for December 1, 2020. Changes in due dates.

ADVOCACY for STUDENTS:

- April 30, 2020, MSCHE formally endorsed two statements: a Statement of Principles on Acceptance of Credit and a Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit.

<https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Statement-Acceptance-of-Credit-Principles-041620.pdf>

<https://www.acenet.edu/Documents/Joint-Statement-on-the-Transfer-and-Award-of-Credit.pdf>

April 24, 2020

- MSCHE was one of 52 organizations that signed a letter to Congress encouraging increased access to funding through the E-Rate and Lifeline programs to expand broadband for the benefit of students enrolled in postsecondary institutions. <https://higherlearningadvocates.org/news/partner-organizations-urge-congress-increase-broadband-access/>
- MSCHE, as a member of the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC), was a signer on a letter to United States Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos urging an extension of the distance education flexibility: <https://www.c-rac.org/post/c-rac-members-urge-continued-flexibility-to-support-postsecondary-distance-learning>.

Resources

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MSCHE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

www.msche.org/COVID-19

U.S. Department of Education (USDE)

www.ed.gov/coronavirus



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