

# Department Seeks Public Comment on Regulations to Repeal

August 9, 2017

**Update:** As a reminder, the Department of Education (ED) is seeking public comments to identify regulations that are “unduly costly or unnecessarily burdensome” and may be candidates for repeal or revision. We encourage you to use this opportunity to raise concerns about any ED regulations or guidance that should be changed or repealed, particularly those that are not yet targeted as part of the upcoming negotiated rulemaking sessions (including the state authorization for distance education rule and its accompanying disclosure requirements, set to take effect in 2018). Following ED’s announcement last Friday extending the deadline, comments will be due Friday, September 20, and may be submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

The Department of Education (ED) created a Regulatory Reform Task Force to recommend existing regulations and guidance to the Secretary that could be eliminated or modified as part of the Administration’s [regulatory reform directive](#). The Task Force is charged with identifying rules that, among other things, are outdated, unnecessary or ineffective, impose costs that exceed benefits or create a serious inconsistency with regulatory reform policies. This effort is not entirely new. Recall that in 2015, members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee released a [list](#) of guidance and regulations subject to similar criteria that should be targeted for reform.

ED is soliciting input from the public to assist the Task Force and is particularly interested in identifying regulatory provisions or guidance that commenters find are “unduly costly or unnecessarily burdensome.” Comments should describe why the requested regulation or guidance should be repealed, replaced or modified, and include any supporting data or information and specific suggestions for alternatives. This announcement is an opportunity to raise concerns about regulations that were not mentioned in ED’s [recent rulemaking announcement](#) on borrower defense to repayment and gainful employment (such as the distance education rule for state authorization).

The announcement appeared in [today’s Federal Register](#). The deadline for comments is August 21, 2017. Note also that the Task Force [released a progress report](#) today identifying its planned next steps, which include public meetings and outreach efforts by individual program offices over the next few months to solicit feedback on regulations and guidance for repeal.

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