



NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF

HIGHER EDUCATION

To: NJ Institutions of Higher Education
From: NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
Date: February 12, 2025
Subject: Resources for New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education Regarding Recent Federal Actions

New Jersey is committed to ensuring equity, access, and affordability of higher education to create opportunity for residents and help meet the state’s workforce objectives. This document is provided by the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) to address questions received by New Jersey institutions of higher education. **It provides basic information and state, federal, and external resources for institutions to consider as they navigate recent federal administration actions.** Institutions should continue to monitor for updated federal requirements and guidance as the situation evolves.

Resources for New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education Regarding Recent Federal Actions

Last updated: February 12, 2025

The federal government has recently issued several [Executive Orders \(EOs\)](#), memos, and fact sheets that carry potential implications for New Jersey institutions of higher education (IHES). Many of these actions have been or are currently under review by courts throughout the country.

Most of the EOs direct federal agencies to conduct a review, issue a report, and/or develop future policies. While these EOs impact the federal agencies, relevant New Jersey laws, including the [NJ Law Against Discrimination](#), remain in effect.

The State, along with our Office, will continue to monitor the updated federal requirements and guidance as the situation evolves. New Jersey remains committed to ensuring equity, access, and affordability of higher education to create opportunity for residents and help meet the state's workforce objectives. Furthermore, the State Plan for Higher Education¹ affirms in its vision for a Student Bill of Rights that every student in New Jersey should feel safe, supported, and welcome in their learning environment.

As OSHE navigates the emerging nature of these changes and receives inquiries from our stakeholders, we wanted to provide institutions with an initial set of resources for their awareness and consideration. Please note, this list is not exhaustive. We will share additional resources or information as they are made available or as needed as particular situations develop.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NJ IHES:

- Health services and wellness centers should be made aware of increased stress to the campus community at this time. Consider supplementing communications to both students and staff of resources and programs available to help address this time of uncertainty.
- Develop a cross-division institution team to discuss and monitor federal updates and impact on campus. The EOs and other federal actions will likely have multiple disparate impacts across campus and such a team can inform an institution's approach.
- Develop a list of potentially impacted federal programs and funding on campus to be aware of for future updates.
- Consider reaching out to the elected federal representatives for your institution's district (senators and congressperson) as needed.
- Develop a website and/or regular communication plan to provide real-time updates and clarifications to the campus community regarding federal activities.
- Reflect on your institution's mission, core goals, and strategic plan to reaffirm values and decision-making on campus.
- Create space for students to facilitate productive dialogue across the campus community.

¹ [Office of the Secretary of Higher Education](#)

- Institutions should also review their data collection policies and practices to ensure that they comply with FERPA, HIPAA, and other federal and state privacy laws.

STATE AGENCIES AND RESOURCES

- [NJ OSHE](#)
 - [*Guidance and Resources on State and Federal Immigration Requirements for New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education*](#)
 - [*Free Mental Health and Wellness Support for New Jersey College Students*](#)
 - [*Basic Needs Information Hub*](#)
- [NJ Governor’s Office of Equity](#)
- [NJ Office of the Attorney General](#)
 - [*Immigrant Trust Directive*](#)
 - [*Statement of Attorney General Platkin and DCR Director Iyer on Addressing Bias in K-12 Schools, Colleges, and Universities in New Jersey*](#)
- [NJ Division on Civil Rights](#)
 - [*Addressing Bias on Campus*](#)
- [NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority](#)
- [NJ Department of Education](#)
 - [*School-Related State and Federal Requirements Pertaining to Immigrant Students and Families*](#)
- NJ Department of Children and Families: [Youth Resource Spot](#)

FEDERAL AGENCY RESOURCES

- [White House News](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
 - [Office for Civil Rights](#)

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- American Council on Education: [Executive Orders Impacting Higher Education](#)
- Council on Governmental Relations: [2025 Administration Transition Information & Resources](#)
- EducationCounsel: [Summary and Analysis of Trump Administration “Day One” Executive Orders and Related Actions Impacting Education](#)