

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT TEXTBOOK PROVISIONS

- Requires institutions of higher education by July 2010 who receive federal financial assistance (this includes private institutions of higher education who receive federal funds) to the “maximum extent practicable” and “in a manner of the institution's choosing” to provide students with accurate course material information including ISBN and retail price when available and practicable for each course listed in the institution’s course schedule used for preregistration and registration purposes, or may otherwise indicate "to be determined."
- Encourages stakeholders to work together to reduce course material costs.
- Requires textbook publishers by July 2010 to disclose certain course material information to faculty and staff including the net (wholesale) price, the price to the bookstore and the price to the students.
- Requires textbook publishers to make available the copyright dates of the three previous editions as well as format options when available.
- Requires textbook publishers to offer unbundled course materials, unless they are bound by third-party contract, customs, or if the materials are designed solely as integrated materials.
- Encourages institutions of higher education to disseminate information to students on campus-based initiatives to reduce costs such as used books, guaranteed buyback, rental programs, e-books, print-on-demand, etc.
- Requires institutions to provide their campus stores with enrollment information and adoption information.
- Requires greater reporting of book and supply cost information among other higher education cost reporting requirements.
- Establishes an advisory commission and competitive grant program to make course materials more accessible for students with disabilities.
- Creates a new competitive pilot grant to fund up to 10 institutions and their college bookstores who wish to experiment with offering students textbook rental programs to reduce the net costs for students.