



Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Date: July 28, 2026

To: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, and Accreditation Liaison Officers of
ACCJC Member Institutions; Other Interested Parties

From: Mac Powell, President *MP*

Subject: The College Transparency Act Policy Brief

I am pleased to share ACCJC's new policy brief, "[The College Transparency Act: Strengthening Postsecondary Data Transparency and Accountability](#)." The brief outlines ACCJC's perspective on current discussions regarding federal postsecondary data reform and highlights the principles we believe should guide any effort to modernize the nation's higher education data infrastructure.

ACCJC believes that effective accountability and continuous improvement depend on access to accurate, comprehensive, and meaningful student outcomes data. While significant progress has been made at the state and accreditor levels, current federal data systems do not fully capture the experiences and outcomes of many students, including transfer students, part-time learners, returning adults, and those enrolled in short-term workforce programs.

The College Transparency Act has renewed important conversations about how federal data systems can better serve students, institutions, policymakers, employers, and accreditors. ACCJC supports reforms that strengthen transparency while protecting student privacy, reduce unnecessary reporting burdens on institutions, provide more meaningful information about student outcomes, and better reflect the full range of today's learners and educational pathways.

The attached policy brief outlines several priorities ACCJC believes should be central to any federal data modernization effort, including strong privacy safeguards, the inclusion of all student populations, program-level transparency where appropriate, reduced duplicative reporting requirements, and data that can be used to support both accountability and continuous institutional improvement.

As policymakers consider potential reforms, ACCJC will continue to advocate for approaches that promote informed decision-making, preserve institutional mission, strengthen public confidence in higher education, and support student success.

Thank you for your continued commitment to educational quality and continuous improvement. I encourage you to review the attached policy brief and share it with colleagues who may be interested in this important issue.