



Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

Date: September 9, 2026
To: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, and Accreditation
Liaison Officers of ACCJC Member Institutions; Other Interested
Parties
From: Mac Powell, President *MP*
Subject: AIM Proposed Regulations: Data Reporting and Opportunity for
Public Comment

ACCJC has continued to review the [U.S. Department of Education's proposed Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization \(AIM\) regulations](#) to better understand how the proposed changes could affect both ACCJC's accreditation processes and the institutions we serve.

A particular area of focus has been the potential for new or expanded data-reporting expectations. Several provisions of the proposed regulations appear to contemplate accrediting agencies collecting and evaluating additional information from institutions, including student outcomes data at both the institutional and programmatic levels. Depending on how these provisions are ultimately interpreted and implemented, they could result in institutions being asked to collect, analyze, and report additional information to ACCJC as part of accreditation and monitoring activities.

Among the proposed measures are data related to:

- completion and graduation;
- employment and continuing education;
- licensure or certification, where applicable; and
- educational and economic outcomes relative to cost.

ACCJC is continuing to analyze these provisions, including what information institutions already collect, what additional data might be required, the availability and reliability of program-level data, and how new requirements could interact with existing federal, state, system, and institutional reporting structures.

As part of that review, ACCJC has raised questions with the Department regarding the intended scope and implementation of several provisions. In particular, greater clarification may be helpful regarding the level of programmatic data accrediting agencies would be expected to review, the sources and definitions to be used, and the extent to which institutions could rely upon data they already collect or that are available through existing state and federal systems.

Opportunity for Institutional Comment

Because institutions will ultimately be responsible for producing much of the information that accrediting agencies may be required to evaluate, your perspective can be especially valuable to the Department as it considers the final regulations.

Institutions may wish to review the proposed requirements and consider submitting comments seeking clarification regarding issues such as:

- what information would be required at the institutional versus programmatic level;
- the treatment of transfer students, part-time students, noncredit learners, and small cohorts in outcomes data analysis;
- whether existing federal, state, system, or institutional data could satisfy the requirements;
- the availability and reliability of employment, earnings, transfer, and continuing-education data; and
- the systems, staffing, and costs associated with collecting and reporting additional information.

Comments that provide specific examples of implementation challenges, data limitations, costs, or existing reporting practices may be particularly useful in helping the Department understand how the proposed requirements would operate in practice.

Public comments on the proposed regulations are due **September 21, 2026**, and [can be made via the federal register](#).

ACCJC will continue to share additional information as it becomes available.

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