

The recently proposed “public charge” rule would penalize students who use public benefits that are critical to ensuring they succeed in higher education and contribute to our communities and our country.

Why this matters to higher education? Our top 10 concerns are listed below:

1. The proposed rule would substantially expand the definition of “public charge,” and lawfully present immigrants would face increased barriers to maintaining or adjusting their immigration status.
2. The proposed rule would mark a fundamental change from our nation’s historic commitment to welcoming immigrants and reshape our legal immigration system.
3. The rule would discourage immigrant youth and U.S.-citizen youth with non-citizen parents from pursuing a college education and increase families’ financial instability.
4. Research shows that postsecondary education boosts economic mobility, improves lives, and helps the economy, yet the proposed rule would deter immigrant youth from enrolling in higher education.
5. The rule would penalize low-income immigrants who receive or who are likely to receive public benefits that enable them to enroll and succeed in college, and it would create significant and lasting harm to the health and well being of immigrant youth and their families.
6. The proposed rule would have profound consequences on entire communities.
7. The proposed rule would discourage adult immigrant learners from participating in workforce training, certification programs, and adult education programs that help to improve their English language skills.
8. The proposed rule would apply to international students, visitors, and workers seeking to extend or adjust their status.
9. The proposed rule could affect changes in the U.S. talent pipeline that would ultimately undermine our nation’s global competitiveness.
10. The complex regulations under the proposed rule would create significant administrative burdens on institutions and college advisors, as well as increased uncertainty about use of braided funding for education and career pathway programs.