

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN, *Chairman*

JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA
GLENN GROTHMAN, WISCONSIN
ELISE M. STEFANIK, NEW YORK
RICK W. ALLEN, GEORGIA
JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
BURGESS OWENS, UTAH
LISA C. MCCLAIN, MICHIGAN
MARY E. MILLER, ILLINOIS
JULIA LETLOW, LOUISIANA
KEVIN KILEY, CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL RULLI, OHIO
JAMES C. MOYLAN, GUAM
ROBERT F. ONDER, JR., MISSOURI
RYAN MACKENZIE, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER, WASHINGTON
MARK HARRIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK B. MESSMER, INDIANA
RANDY FINE, FLORIDA



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA,
Ranking Member

JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
FREDERICA S. WILSON, FLORIDA
SUZANNE BONAMICI, OREGON
MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
ALMA S. ADAMS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK DESAULNIER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD NORCROSS, NEW JERSEY
LUCY MCBATH, GEORGIA
JAHANA HAYES, CONNECTICUT
ILHAN OMAR, MINNESOTA
HALEY STEVENS, MICHIGAN
GREG CASAR, TEXAS
SUMMER L. LEE, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN MANNION, NEW YORK
ADELITA GRIJALVA, ARIZONA

September 7, 2026

Ms. Orice Williams Brown
Acting Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Acting Comptroller General Brown:

Each year, many college students transfer between schools because of changing interests, financial motives, or other circumstances. The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2017 report on the transfer of college credits found that transferring can complicate the path to obtaining a degree for some students.¹ In this regard, the Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) seeks additional information pertaining to transfer of college credits.

One challenge transfer students may encounter is that credits earned at a previous institution may not be accepted by the receiving school or may not be applied toward the requirements of the student's degree program. In 2017, GAO reported that students who transferred between 2004 and 2009 lost more than 40 percent of their credits, with credit loss varying based on the transfer path.² GAO also found that transfer students may incur additional costs when they must repeat coursework because previously earned credits do not transfer or count toward their degree.³ Students who must repeat coursework may use additional financial aid or exhaust their financial aid eligibility, potentially increasing their out-of-pocket costs.

To support transferring students, some institutions of higher education have established transfer policies and articulation agreements that specify how credits earned at one school will transfer to another. Some states have also established statewide articulation agreements or transfer policies

¹ GAO, *Higher Education: Students Need More Information to Help Reduce Challenges in Transferring College Credits*, GAO-17-574 (Washington, D.C.: August 14, 2017).

² *Id.* at 16, 49, 51, 53.

³ *Id.* at 110, 25-27, 53.

that apply to certain schools within the state. Despite these arrangements, students may continue to face challenges transferring credits.

Given that the federal government provides billions of dollars in financial aid to postsecondary students each year, it has a vested interest in student success. Current regulations require an accrediting agency to confirm that an institution of higher education has a transfer of credit policy that is publicly disclosed and includes a statement of the criteria governing the transfer of credit earned at another institution.⁴ Moreover, on August 20, 2026, the Department of Education published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would require an accreditor to ensure colleges and universities maintain policies that presume classes will transfer if completed at another accredited institution.⁵ This change is intended to lower the costs of a postsecondary education and facilitate timely degree completion.

In light of the federal government's sizable investment in student aid, changes at the federal level, and the role states can play helping to ease credit transfers, the Committee requests that GAO answer the following questions:

1. What practices do selected states have in place to help students with transferring their credits, and have states found them helpful?
2. What steps have selected states taken to improve the information colleges provide to students who may transfer, such as notifying them about credit transfers before enrollment?

Should you have any questions, please contact Kent Talbert of the Committee staff at kent.talbert@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4527. The Committee looks forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and Workforce

⁴ 34 C.F.R. § 602.24(e).

⁵ Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization: The Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies: Institutional Eligibility Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended, Student Assistance General Provisions, 91 Fed. Reg. 53940, 53965, 54013 (proposed Aug. 20, 2026) (revising 34 C.F.R. § 602.24(e)).