Department of Education Releases Framework for College Ratings

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On December 19, 2014, the United States Department of Education announced a draft college ratings framework in response to a directive from President Obama. The ratings system is designed to provide information and benchmarking to current and prospective students and their families — and to colleges and universities — regarding enrollment diversity, affordability, and commitment to helping students graduate. The draft framework identified several sources of information for the ratings system, including percentage of students receiving Pell grants, the expected family contribution gap, family income quintiles, first-generation college status, completion and transfer rates, labor market success and graduate school attendance. The Department of Education is seeking public comment on the draft framework through February 17, 2015 and will release the rating system for the 2015-2016 school year. **Client Tip**: *Colleges and universities should monitor the development of the rating system, as it may become an important recruiting tool.*

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