

Assuring Quality Education During a Pandemic through Flexibility




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2020

- Usual Meaning of 2020
- New Meaning for 2020



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USDOE Recognition

- Draft analysis
- Three clarifications
 - One issue
 - July Agenda

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Team Visits

- **6** Pilot virtual visits
- **61** Reaffirmation/Initial virtual in 2020
- **58** moved to 2021
- **186** scheduled for 2021
- **8** Candidate virtual in 2020
- **27** Substantive Change virtual in 2020
- Follow-up visits

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2020 Accommodations

- **Institutional Advisory Committee Meetings**
- **Occupational Advisory Committee Meetings**
- **Financial Reporting**
- **Faculty/Industry Liaison**
- **Temporary Approval for Distance Education Instruction**
- **Waiver of Required Student Achievement Benchmarks**

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Commissioner Survey

1. **What was the greatest impact COVID-19 had on institutions in your peer group?**
2. **What impact did COVID-19 have on the quality of education in your peer group?**
3. **What impact did COVID-19 have on enrollment/financial stability in your peer group?**
4. **What was the greatest lesson learned from COVID-19 in your peer group?**

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1. What was the greatest impact COVID-19 had on institutions in your peer group?

- Implementing stricter state regulations
- Providing a safe learning environment
- Moving technical programs online
- Accommodating the digital divide
- Finding work-based sites
- Making allowances for students to home school children
- Adjusting for reduced student outcomes and enrollment
- Realizing that technical programs can be taught online
- Confirming that the federal community is prepared

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2. What impact did COVID-19 have on the quality of education in your peer group?

- Lack of faculty preparedness for distance education
- Limitations on lab assignments
- Students not equipped for distance learning
- Student adjustment to online learning
- No impact, proof will be in licensure exams
- Federal Community-no impact

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**3. What impact did COVID-19 have on enrollment/
financial stability in your peer group?**

- **30-40 % decrease in enrollment**
- **Reduced state funding**
- **Unexpected cost**
- **Federal - none**

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**4. What was the greatest lesson learned from COVID-19
in your peer group?**

- **Permanency of distance education**
- **Importance of communication in a crisis**
- **Strength of faculty resilience**
- **Dire student need**
- **Need for flexibility**
- **Success of federal schools in a virtual environment**

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Challenges for 2021

- Coping with uncertainty
- Managing increased regulatory burden
- Bridging the digital divide
- Providing a safe learning environment
- Attracting students through enhanced services
- Preparing faculty for online technical programs

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Relief for 2021

- Relax Moratorium (**Likely**)
- Suspend student outcome benchmarks (**TBD**)
- Withdraw follow-up team visit requirement (**Wishful**)
- Extend temporary approvals (**TBD**)
- Distance Education Applications (**393 Temporary Approvals**)
- “25 percent of the institution’s total Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) being derived from enrollments in traditional” (**Likely**)
- “Conducts at least one face-to-face OAC meeting” (**Likely**)

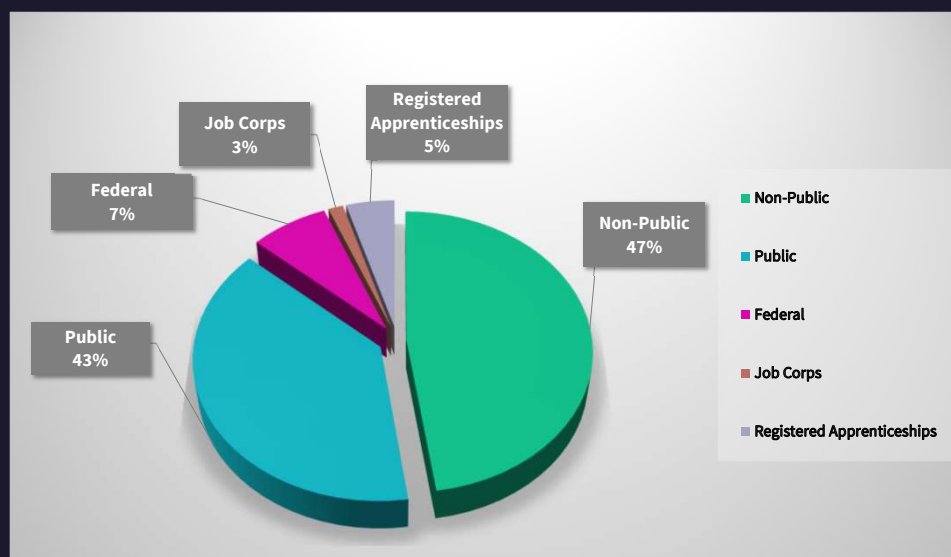
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What is certain?

- **Thousands** of students seeking careers
- **Hundreds** of determined COE schools implementing innovative solutions
- **Hundreds** of COE volunteers willing to **evaluate**
- **Twenty** outstanding Commissioners willing to **decide**
- **Sixteen** great staff ably **organizing, coordinating, and communicating**

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Accredited and Candidate Membership: 566 (November, 2020)



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Commissioner Quotes

“It is amazing what we can accomplish when we do not have a choice”

~ **Josh Cotter**

“Planning and implementing operational changes without a precedent”

~ **Jim Brosnan**

“Make hay when the sun shines”

~ **Karen Wade**

“When facing a problem no matter how large, remain calm, press forward and work together to find a solution to the problem”

~ **Jody Hawk**