

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) promotes student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

BUILDING ON ED'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- SUPPORTING ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS (AANAPISIs):** The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) provided more than \$5 billion to AANAPISIs, with at least half of the funds allocated for direct financial relief to students. ED also provided more than \$43 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 to AANAPISIs and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNHs) through other grant programs.
- INVESTING IN NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:** In September 2021, ED announced 35 grants supported by \$84.8 million in ARP funds and awarded through the Native Hawaiian Education (NHE) program. Grants were made to Native Hawaiian educational organizations; Native Hawaiian community-based organizations; and other nonprofits, agencies, and institutions with experience in developing or operating Native Hawaiian programs or programs of instruction in the Native Hawaiian language.
- ADDRESSING COVID-19-RELATED HARASSMENT AND BULLYING IN SCHOOLS:** The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice jointly issued a letter to educators on May 26, 2021, and a [fact sheet](#) addressing the increased harassment and violence directed at Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students and reminded schools about their role in addressing discrimination, including harassment, against AAPI students.
- ADVANCING DATA DISAGGREGATION EFFORTS:** OCR administers the Civil Rights Data Collection, a biennial, mandatory survey of the nation's public local educational agencies and schools that collects information on key education and civil rights issues, including student discipline, harassment, and bullying. The data are disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, English learner status, and disability status, and ED is considering further disaggregation. These collections will allow ED to identify inequities in educational opportunities as the country continues to recover from COVID-19 and its effects on students' academic, social, and emotional development. ED has also made plans to collect highly disaggregated race and ethnicity data on its FAFSA® form, filled out by all federal student aid applicants, and will allow disaggregated data reporting on higher education access and success in the future.

PRIORITY PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Per Executive Order 14031, ED has identified three high-priority goals that will span the next two years. These goals will advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

GOAL 1

Further disaggregate ED data to provide more insights into the experiences and challenges of the AA and NHPI communities: To understand the full needs of AA and NHPI students, ED will work to increase data disaggregation. By the end of calendar year 2022, ED identified specific datasets that can be further disaggregated and has begun to analyze these datasets. ED is also exploring other actions it can take to support such efforts at the local level.

GOAL 2

Increase engagement with the AA and NHPI communities: As part of its goal to promote student achievement and ensure equal access to education, ED will conduct more robust outreach to help understand the unique needs of and ways to support each AA and NHPI subgroup. ED developed a specific engagement plan for the AA and NHPI communities that included three high-quality engagements (such as, targeted webinars) that were completed by the end of FY 2022 and five high-quality engagements that will be completed by the end of FY 2023.

GOAL 3

Build capacity for AA and NHPI supporting institutions, including AANAPISIs, to effectively compete for grants: ED will work to reverse the underfunding of institutions serving the most low-income and underrepresented students. To that end, ED will strive to increase the number of eligible AANAPISIs that apply for competitive grant programs between March 2022 and March 2024. ED will provide targeted outreach and technical assistance to institutions to improve their capacity to receive grants.