

What They're Saying:

Faculty Credit Affordable Access Programs for Cutting Costs and Raising Outcomes for Students
Professors and college administrators share stories of student success and textbook affordability thanks to affordable access programs.

Higher education leaders are expressing their support for affordable access programs in the wake of a potential Department of Education regulatory effort that could severely impact textbook affordability and harm overall student success.

The proposed regulatory change could take away institutions' ability to provide students with low-cost textbooks and course materials through opt-out affordable access programs, which automatically deduct fees from students' accounts to cover below-market-priced course materials. The opt-out model allows colleges to leverage economies of scale to secure bulk discounts for students, and has [helped lower student spending](#) on course materials by 57% over the past decade.

Today, more than 1,500 colleges and universities nationwide depend on these programs to help students be prepared for the first day of class, reduce stress in sourcing materials, increase academic success, and help cut costs.

Here's what faculty and administrators are saying about the benefits and value of affordable access programs:

- **"It is imperative that our students have their course materials on the first day of classes ...** An opt-out program allows us to do that because the school can buy materials for an entire class at one time and they don't have to do millions of transactions." – [Dr. Shahrooz Moosavizadeh, Ph.D.](#), Professor and Director of the Spartans All-Inclusive (SAIL) Program at Norfolk State University
- **"Many of our students receive financial aid, and we also have a number who are either elderly or in the military. They may have to wait a few weeks to get their financial aid disbursement, military waivers or other resources to pay for their course materials. With an inclusive access program, these forms of payment can be applied for course materials along with tuition. From day one, they have the course materials they need to be successful. They won't get discouraged because they fall behind and have to play catch-up. All students start out on a level playing field."** – [Dr. Donald Parker, M.D.](#), Professor and Inclusive Access Coordinator at Houston Community College
- **"The inclusive access program is a perfect example of a college being student-ready, instead of expecting a student to be college-ready. It is by design setting the student up for success ...** For many years, higher ed's approach has been, 'This is who we are. Everyone, figure out how to work our system.' That's got to change, and it is changing. This [affordable access] program is a perfect example of that. We're now saying, 'These are the students we serve – how can we change to better meet their needs?'" -- [Dr. Teri Von Handorf, Ed.D.](#), Provost, Gateway Community College
- **"I can definitely tell you that our students are very excited about [affordable access]. It has absolutely driven our students into the bookstore as well as getting their books early ...** And what that includes is the Charger BookPass, which is a hundred-dollar flat fee for all of their

books and materials for all of their classes, not just per class, but a flat fee of one hundred dollars ... I took a look at the ... cost of the books that were being adopted by our faculty [before the access program], and we had over thirteen hundred titles that cost more than a hundred dollars per book, and many were over two hundred or three hundred.” – [JoAnna Schilling](#), President of Cypress College

- “[The] **Access Program has heightened our ability to provide a high quality, affordable access to resources and materials for students and it also really helps to augment their student success.**” – [A. Zachary Faison Jr.](#), President and CEO of Edward Waters University

Faculty and higher education leaders join students in raising their voices about the affordability, convenience, and overall success of affordable access programs. To stay informed about the ongoing rulemaking effort, visit www.keeptextbooksaffordable.com or the Department of Education’s [website](#).